

Killings-1934

ATTEMPTED ATTACK IS REPORTED

Divorcee Says Accused

Took Her Riding On
Day Of KillingCO-ED SLAYING CASE
TAKES NEW TURN

Escape By Ruse Told By

Mrs. Clara Cost In
Statement

Police investigation of the slaying of Miss Faye New, Howard College senior, took a new and sensational turn Friday afternoon when Mrs. Clara Cost, young divorcee, swore out a warrant charging Harold Taylor, accused in the death of Miss New, with having attempted to attack her a few hours before Taylor's death. Mrs. Cost, who lives at 1128 North Twenty-Third Street, said she met Taylor, a slight acquaintance, downtown about 2 p.m. Monday and accepted his invitation to ride to her home with him. Instead, she charged, Taylor took her in the opposite direction, against her will, to a point near the Montgomery Highway where she charged he handled her roughly and attempted to attack her.

The young woman swore out the warrant against Taylor shortly after she came to Police Headquarters and told City Detectives E. W. Jackson, R. J. Granger, Paul Cole and J. T. Moser, homicide squad members, of her meeting with Taylor. She then went to the Court of Misdemeanors and swore out the warrant against Taylor.

Notified of the new charge against him, Taylor in his cell in the county jail, denied knowledge of the meeting and asserted he did not know Mrs. Cost.

Taylor's Record Checked
Detectives working on the New case let it be known Friday after-

noon that they had conducted a careful investigation of Taylor's past and were checking a number of reports of his activities brought to headquarters during the last two days.

In addition, the officers went back to the scene of the slaying and made a minute inspection of the territory. Friday afternoon in hope of finding the knife used by Miss New's slayer and bloody clothing they believed was abandoned near the scene by the man who killed the young college student.

In a conference Friday afternoon with Police Chief Luther Hollums, the city engineering department issued orders to surveyors and draftsmen to accompany officers to the scene Saturday morning to begin a detailed map of the entire surroundings. The engineering department will draw an illustrated map, with the exact measurements of all points involved in the case, together with descriptive matter relating to the scene for presentation to the special Grand Jury which will be assembled Monday to hear the evidence against Taylor.

Grand Jury Summoned

Orders convening a special Grand Jury to hear the case were issued Friday by Judge J. Russell McElroy, who pointed out that "the law provides that the court shall issue such call at its discretion."

The special Grand Jury will be assembled one week in advance of the date set for the regular session of the inquisitorial body, but the holding of the special jury is calculated to speed up the case considerably. In the event of an inductor, the solicitor to have the case docketed for the next capital week, which begins Sept. 17.

Police investigators conferred for a lengthy period Friday with Solicitor Bailes and his staff, turning over to the prosecutor's office stenographic copies of statements made by all persons interviewed, including Taylor, together with additional information in their possession.

Shortly after the conference, Solicitor Bailes let it be known he would be in complete readiness to present the evidence to the Grand Jury soon after it convenes. Witnesses, it was said, probably will be summoned during the week-end.

After swearing out the warrant against Taylor, Mrs. Cost gave newspaper men a detailed account of her meeting with Taylor on the afternoon before Miss New was slain. "I knew him slightly," Mrs. Cost said, "before I got in his car. He was a friend of some friends of mine and we had been together once or twice playing bridge."

Birmingham, Ala.

Taylor Suggests Ride

I was walking home Monday afternoon about 2 o'clock when a car drove up to the curb near Twenty-First Street and Fifth Avenue, North.

I recognized Taylor and he called me over to the car, asking me where I was going. When I told him I was

I told him I didn't want to ride, but he kept driving away, and it was impossible for me to get out. He drove out the Green Springs Road, passed over Shades Mountain and went on to the Montgomery Highway, where near a sandwich station he turned off the main highway and drove a block or so off to a house where he bought some whisky.

"After that he drove me a little farther on and parked his car. He told me to get out and when I refused he insulted me and threatened to kill me. He waved his fist at me and told me he didn't intend to stand for such foolishness. Then he grabbed me by my arm and wrenched it till it hurt two or three times. "Finally I decided the only way to get out of his hands was to try and outwit him."

Woman Uses Ruse

"I told him that we ought to go to a place on the Montgomery Highway where he could drink, instead of remaining where we were, and he then drove back to the highway with me. Then I asked him if he could tell anot in the case. Taylor's father good lie. 'Sure,' he replied. 'Then I said he had heard that Mrs. Cost had wish you would stop at the nearest place and telephone my sister, who but expects me home now, that I'll be. Mr. Taylor said he had not yet delayed.' He drove to a nearby place and I gave him a telephone number which was not my own. Warning me not to get away, he went in and called, keeping me in view all the time. Then he came back out and said I had given him the wrong number. I told him I had the number in my purse and he reached for it. While looking for it I told him to drive on ahead to Edgewood and we could telephone from a drug store there. He agreed and stopped at the store mentioned. That time I gave him the right number and he left me in the car. When he got out of view I jumped out of the car and ran away in a direction in which he could not see me. I ran about five blocks and then got on a street car to go back to town. Passing the drug store I saw him sitting in the automobile but I tried to conceal myself while the car was passing. I got back to town and went directly home, arriving there about 4:30 o'clock."

Officers Cover Route

After the warrant was sworn out by Mrs. Cost, officers went with her along the route she described and later reported they had found corroborations of her story. Modishly dressed in blue silk, Mrs.

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Cost, a vivacious blond with twinkling blue eyes, told officers she hesitated at first in reporting the occurrence to police because she desired to avoid notoriety, but added that after thinking matters over she decided it was her duty to do so. She said she would be willing to go into court and testify about her experience.

Frequent conferences at headquarters between officers engaged in the investigation and Chief Hollums were held Friday afternoon and plans were announced later that the search will be carried on indefinitely for the weapon used in killing Miss New and for bloody garments which the slayer may have worn.

May Drag Stream

Some distance from the place where the body was found a small branch runs and officers were considering the possibility of dragging it for additional evidence.

Investigators Friday afternoon made frequent hurried trips to various points nearby, running down reports of additional information and new witnesses.

Chief Hollums reiterated his previous declaration that the city has worked up a strong case against the accused Taylor.

Late Friday afternoon Marvin Taylor, former city comptroller and father of the accused, was closeted for several minutes with Chief Hollums about the conversation between the two men was not revealed. After the conference Mr. Taylor said he had called on the chief to find out if additional developments had been anoted in the case. Taylor's father said he had heard that Mrs. Cost had sworn out a warrant against his son but said he had nothing to say about the case. Mr. Taylor said he had not yet finally decided on who will represent his son.

Reward Offered

For Negroes

The State of Alabama has offered rewards for the arrest of two Autauga County negroes, both wanted on charges of murder.

A reward of \$100 is offered for the capture of Freddie Lee Shelton, who killed Joanna Tyus West Autauga several weeks ago.

Another reward of \$100 is offered for the capture of Yancey Chappell, who killed Sally Lee Hayes in West Autauga the past year.

Both negroes wanted left the county immediately after committing the crimes and have not been apprehended.

DOUBLE SLAYING ENDS QUARREL

LINEVILLE, Ala.—A double slaying Sunday afternoon ended a quarrel between a young white man and a Negro tenant farmer near Lineville.

Gregg, a white, and Buck Trimble, 50, Negro farmer, died almost instantly after an exchange of shots outside the Negro's home and the third victim was added to the tragedy when Mrs. J. H. Gregg, the boy's mother, died at 9 a.m. Monday from the shock of her son's death.

According to reports received here Gregg and another white man, Howard Shults, stopped at Trimble's farm about 3 p.m. Sunday. They had some words with the Negro. Gregg returned home, and despite difficulties from his mother, returned to the Trimble home with a shotgun. Trimble appeared on the porch with a pistol in his hand. It was stated they agreed to lay down their weapons, but as Trimble stooped Gregg is said to have fired, the full charge striking the Negro in the stomach.

As he fell, Trimble raised his pistol and fired, the bullet striking Gregg over the heart and severing a large vein. The boy died instantly, and the Negro succumbed a few moments later. A. H. Gregg, father of the boy, a prominent farmer of this section.

Youth Is Slain In Pistol Battle

OPELIKA, ALA., Sept. 16—(Special)—Brady Hunt, 22-year-old son of J. W. Hunt, Salem farmer, died at 11 a.m. today of gunshot wounds received last night in a pistol battle at a negro's home near Salem.

Oscar Burt, negro, was arrested by Sheriff Emmett Holt and is held in jail for the shooting. The negro was wounded. Brady Hunt and his brother, Curt's Hunt, used their truck to take a group of negroes to a "turtle supper" near Salem, officers were out on leaving the negroes at their destination, returned about midnight to pick them up. Brady Hunt went to the door of the negro home and bought some barbecue meat, officers said, and the Burt negro cursed him and opened fire. Hunt pulled his pistol and returned the fire they said.

Young Hunt was treated at his home but died this morning from two bullets in his breast. Sheriff Holt's men found Burt at another negro's home about daybreak, it was said.

Hunt is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hunt, his brother Curtis, and a sister, Mrs. J. W. Johnson. The funeral will be held at Salem Monday afternoon.

NEGRO, FOUND IN Deputy Captures Negro HOME, IS KILLED As White Man's Slayer

Armed with a blunt-nosed derringer, a father's aim proved true and he killed a Negro intruder early Sunday morning, despite the fact his son was used as a shield by the Negro, according to police.

The episode resulted in the death of a Negro identified as Roy Jones, 21, of North Birmingham, and reported by police to have been named as the intruder who has molested several white women in North Birmingham recently. He was also a suspect in the recent abduction and reported attacking of a 4-year-old white girl.

The Negro was shot to death by R. B. McMurray, 1913 Thirty-First Avenue, North, who told officers his wife discovered the intruder in the children's bedroom. When Mrs. McMurray screamed, her husband rushed to the room as the Negro clutched an 8-year-old son, James McMurray, and used him as a shield. Approaching closer, the father took careful aim and shot the Negro two times in the chest, killing him almost instantly, officers said.

The Negro entered the room where James was sleeping by removing a window screen. A 12-year-old sister was away from home at the time.

County Investigator Evans and Sergt. Ellis investigated. Finding of justifiable homicide was returned.

LIFE TERM GIVEN TO NEGRO SLAYER

Fight Over Nickel Brings Severe Penalty

Life imprisonment as the result of a quarrel over a nickel.

A jury in Judge H. P. Behm's court yesterday found Henry Beavers, negro, guilty of first degree murder for fatally shooting Willie Wynn, negro, in a crap game. His punishment was fixed at life imprisonment.

Beavers said he rolled a "seven" in the game and started to pick up a nickel, the total stakes involved.

Wynn, operator of the game, declared, "That goes to the house." In the ensuing argument, Beavers said, Wynn reached for a rifle. The defendant declares he shot in self defense.

Leo Streeter, negro, charged with the murder of Carl Johnson white man, who escaped after the killing about three months ago, was arrested yesterday by Deputy Sheriff R. C. Guice. The negro, Deputy Guice said, was hiding under a table when the officer walked into his house about one mile south of Pine Level.

Johnson was shot to death in Streeter's home last July. White of his way to jail late Saturday. Streeter told the deputy the trouble between him and the white man arose over a liquor quarrel. The negro said Johnson was trying to take \$1.50 away from him when he shot in self-defense.

Streeter was indicted at the last session of the Grand Jury and will be tried at the November term of criminal court. He told deputies that he spent most of the last three months in Birmingham.

DEPUTY BONDED IN SLAYING OF NEGRO

J. W. Alexander Held To Grand Jury In Connection With Mine Disturbance

Freed of a murder charge in the shooting of H. C. Collins, Negro miner, Deputy J. W. Alexander was bound over to the Grand Jury under \$500 bond Thursday afternoon by Judge Abernethy on a second degree manslaughter charge in the slaying of Ed Woolen, another Negro miner, who was killed with Collins during a disturbance Sept. 16 near Porter Mines.

The officer made the bond. He had been at liberty under \$10,000 bond on two murder charges.

Both Deputy Alexander and Deputy Richardson, who accompanied him the day of the disturbance, testified they returned fire of Negro marchers when many of them ran out of the line of march and began shooting in all directions.

Roderick Beddow and Clarence Mullins, counsel for Alexander, introduced testimony to show that "several hundred shots were fired in all directions" during the disturbance. John Williams, Negro, and his wife, Ida Williams, testified that their car was stopped by the marchers and that they were taken from the machine and fired upon. Williams said many shots were fired at him as he fled the scene.

O. A. Anderson, white union miner of Bradford, who was in the line of march, testified that many Negro marchers ran out of line and into nearby houses. Negro occupants of the houses said that their dishes and

furniture were broken and their wash tubs cut up with axes by the unruly marchers. A. J. Painter and G. I. Glasgow, testifying for the state on rebuttal, identified Alexander as the slayer of Woolen.

Claim Thompson Confessed to All Tuskegee Murders

Former Cafe Man Will be Tried if He Regains Sanity.

FEW BELIEVE HE WILL BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL

Physicians Warned That Man Was Dangerous.

(Exclusive to the AFRO) By STAFF CORRESPONDENT

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—Solution of three mysterious murders on the campus of Tuskegee Institute within the past four years is reported here with the discovery that all three have been laid to J. D. Thompson, local restaurant owner, now confined in the Mt. Vernon Asylum for the Insane.

Thompson, who admitted killing Russell C. Atkins, head of the Tuskegee agricultural department, in July, 1933, is reported upon reliable authority to have confessed also to the slaying of Miss Mary Booth nurse, sister-in-law of Dr. Robert R. Moton, in August, 1930, and the killing of Mrs. Helen Howard, cafe operator, who was slain in December, 1932.

Thompson, indicted in the killing of Professor Atkins, after a plea of not guilty on the grounds of insanity, will be tried on all three cases should he regain his sanity, officials here declared this week. In some quarters, however, there is a persistent belief that he will never be declared sane nor called upon to answer for the wholesale murders which temporarily set this community into a state of hysteria.

State and school authorities are said to be satisfied with the foregoing solution of the crimes.

Knew Man Was Dangerous Physicians at the U.S. Veterans

Hospital here are known to have arrested in connection with the Booth murder, was later released. warned Tuskegee authorities as early as May, 1933, that Thompson was dangerously insane, suggesting that the man be removed to an institution for safekeeping. Before the warning had been heeded, however, Professor Atkins was slain.

Following the Atkins murder, Drs. A. Brill, white, of New York; George C. Branch, head of the neuro-psychiatric division at the Veterans' Hospital, Tuskegee, and S. O. Johnson, assistant, were the members of a commission appointed by the court to observe J. D. Thompson on evidences of insanity.

The observation period lasted about a month, and the report made was that Thompson was insane and should be committed to an asylum. This recommendation was followed, but shortly afterward Thompson was brought back to the Tuskegee jail and held there, reason undiscovered or not revealed. It is charged that Thompson admitted killing Professor Atkins because paranoic illusions led him to believe that Atkins was persecuting him.

Thought Someone Would "Get Him"

Thompson repeated again and again in his conversations that Professor Atkins was out "to get him," so he killed to keep from being killed.

Thompson visited the Veterans' Hospital before the Atkins killing, and complained of headaches. He also said he was afraid certain persons were trying to harm him.

Had Murder List

At the time of his arrest, Thompson is alleged to have a murder list which included the names of Dr. Eugene Dibble, director of the institute hospital; William H. Carter, institute treasurer; Robert Glover, cashier of the institute bank; James Fair, instructor of bookkeeping, and John Washington, nephew of the late Booker T. Washington.

Miss Booth, former head nurse at Tuskegee Hospital, was shot down as she left the institution to attend a wedding shower. Six bullets were found in her body and she died without being able to name her slayer.

Mrs. Howard was reported slain by a man who entered her cafe one night and demanded that she turn over all of the money that she had. A bullet struck her in the forehead and the killer fled into the woods at the rear of the cafe.

Says Atkins Accused Him

Professor Atkins was shot as he descended the stairs from his apartment in a hotel building here and shortly afterward, Thompson surrendered to police and was placed in Macon County jail. He is said to have told Sheriff T. A. Riley that Professor Atkins had accused him of complicity in the Booth and Howard murders.

Investigation revealed that the bullets fired in the Howard and Atkins murders were from the same calibre revolver. Thomas Harris Tuskegee football star, who was

arrested in connection with the Booth murder, was later released.

NEGRO WORKER IS SLAIN IN AMBUSH

Employe Of T. C. I. Shot To Death Near Home

Alexander Booth, negro employee of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Co., was fatally shot at 6 a.m. today as he was walking from his Edgewater home to work at Bayview coal mines.

Officers of the company told the sheriff's office that Booth and another negro employee, Earl Harper, were ambushed as they walked along railroad tracks. Harper, they said, was not injured.

Both negroes, they said, were non-union workers and were engaged in cutting weeds about the mine property. The mine has not been in operation for several years.

C. W. Parrish, deputy county investigator, and Deputies Sam Arnett and H. C. Jones, began an immediate investigation.

NEGRO CHICKEN THIEF SLAIN IN PRATT CITY

Volley Comes Too Late To Save Hens

The shot that killed an unidentified negro early today came too late to save the necks of five of F. L. Lindsay's chickens. Awakened by the cackling of hens in his chicken yard at 1015 Hibernia Ave., Pratt City, Lindsay and his brother-in-law, G. C. Bagley, fired 10 shots at the intruder.

Only one of the shots found its mark but the negro died from its effects before he could be moved from the chicken yard.

He had wrung the necks of five chickens when he was shot down. Six of the fowls were left after the negro's foray.

Coroner Gip M. Evans returned a verdict of justifiable homicide. Officers J. A. Meek and L. G. Dixon investigated.

Killings - 1934

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

REPUBLICAN

MAR 31 1934

"PETERSON GETS 'LIFE'"

Sentence of Alabama Negro Regarded as Typical Manifestation of Race Prejudice

To the Editor of The Republican:

"Peterson Gets 'Life.'" What they mean is, they condemn an innocent and helpless man to a living death in an Alabama prison, a much worse fate than real physical death. Of course, most humble souls in this world will cling to life at almost any cost; but if I were offered death in an electric chair and "life" in Alabama penitentiaries at the same time, I would eagerly grab at death as a deliverer. To Peterson, perhaps, it looks different, after lingering and waiting so long with the sword of death hanging over him.

Once the "white people" of Alabama decide that a certain Negro must be sacrificed to the gods of race prejudice, the deed is done. It would be "bad policy" to let that Negro off; it would "spoil" other Negroes. Whatever will we do with these Negroes if we let them get the notion in their heads that they can beat the will of the white community? Guilty or innocent, the Negro must be beaten. Most Negroes are more or less guilty anyway. Their race is a guilty race. "Race" is above everything else—above religion, morals, law. That is the sort of half-conscious reasoning that unites the white community against a Negro who has been charged with high crime against whites.

Some white society girls fixed up a picnic dinner, and went out into the woods near Birmingham, Ala., about three years ago, on some mission of their own. Something happened; passions run loose and high in southern blood. And somebody shot up the whole party. Somebody whose passion or will or wish or pride was crossed or hurt. There was doubtless not a Negro within sound of the gun that was fired. Whoever did it wanted to kill all the girls to destroy evidence. One lived. But she could not afford to tell all. The precious name of family and the social standing of many years must be protected.

A quick thought: "Negroes and communism." That was in the air then—"The Scottsboro cases." Any white man, any white officer would believe it, if the word was put out that these Negroes and radicals are responsible for this tragedy. When men are already excited and prejudiced and passionate they will believe anything else along the same line. The news went out. A Negro was looked up; it could have been you or I, but it hap-

pened to be Peterson, because he happened to be on that particular street in Birmingham at the moment when the hunters were out looking for a Negro for the sacrifice.

They lit upon a poor weakling, so sickly and frail that it was ridiculous ever to suspect that he could have committed the deed. But they could not tell that when they saw him strolling along the street. And once this "white will" was in motion; it must not be thwarted; if Peterson contradicted the word of a "white woman," he must be immediately shot by her brother, just as soon as the brother could get a shot at him. He was shot. But he refused to die. Then the white race had to be saved by convicting this innocent Negro, even if they had to try to save the face of "justice" afterward by "commuting" his punishment to "life." It would never, never do to let that Negro go free.

If they had picked up a better specimen, who could "make a speech on communism" and then, shoot three white women, they would have liked it better. But luck only put Peterson in their way. WILLIAM PICKENS.

New York City, March 28, 1934.

NEGRO KILLED BY POLICEMAN HERE

Pratt Moncrief Shot In Back Of Thigh By J. M. Holland

At Dance Hall

One negro was slain and another was wounded yesterday when they resisted arrest and attacked police officers with knives.

Pratt Moncrief, 20, was fatally wounded about 1 a.m. yesterday by Officer J. M. Holland at a Washington Park dance hall after a melee in which the negro slashed the arm of a negro girl, hurled a bottle and attacked the officer with a knife. Moncrief died three hours later from a single bullet wound.

When Detectives Ben Cronier and O. F. Baker went to a store at Clay and Holt Street yesterday afternoon to serve a warrant on a negro named John Taylor, another negro, Charlie Walker, attacked Cronier with a knife and the detective shot him twice through the hip. The negro will recover, physicians said.

Cronier said that when he entered the small store, and asked for Taylor, the Walker negro cursed him and pulled out a long knife. As the negro choked the officer and tried to stab him, Cronier's fellow officer could not assist him on account of the small room, he said. Finally Cronier managed to get his gun out and he fired once at the negro who fell back and then advanced again with

the knife. Another shot stopped him, Cronier said.

Officers Holland and Rutherford had gone to the Washington Park dance hall to arrest Moncrief on complaint of another negro, Frank Cannady, police said.

When Cannady accompanied Holland to the dance hall and pointed out Moncrief, the Moncrief negro, armed with a knife, slashed at Cannady and the officer. Holland said. During the fight a negro girl was cut on the arm.

Holland said that he struggled with the negro out on the porch of the dance hall and the two fell down the steps. Just as they struck the ground, Holland said he shot the negro once and that the negro ran about 30 steps and fell.

The bullet struck the negro in the back of the thigh and ranged upward, it was said.

Superior officers indicated that Holland and Cronier both were justified in firing.

Fred Simmons, escaped negro convict "lifer" and alleged murderer of Grover Kirby, Escambia County farmer, is dead. He was killed at or near Milton, Fla., on April 6.

The Sheriff at Milton, who recorded the Bertillon measurements of the slain negro and sent them to the Bureau of Identification at the U. S. Department of Justice in Washington, was informed the dead man was Simmons, escaped Alabama convict, fugitive from justice, and long sought as a member of Mr. Kirby. This information was transmitted by the Sheriff yesterday to the State Convict Department.

Simmons, while serving a life sentence, imposed on him following his conviction in Marengo County of first degree murder, was one of 26 convicts who after overpowering and disarming guards who had them in charge on the Atmore Prison Farm, made their escape Dec. 29, 1933.

In the manhunt that followed, all were recaptured with the exception of Simmons. Every effort was made to locate him but he succeeded in eluding all pursuers, and nothing further was heard of him until yesterday.

The negro was charged with shooting and mortally wounding Mr. Kirby when the latter attempted to head him off and capture him shortly after the break at the Prison Farm. After shooting Mr. Kirby, it was alleged, Simmons wrested the white man's gun from him and kicked him as he lay dying.

Details of the manner in which the negro met his death in Florida were lacking yesterday, but are expected to be furnished by the Sheriff at Milton within a few days.

TWO WHITE MEN HELD IN WORKER'S SLAYING

Murder Charges To Be Filed In Fatal Beating Of Negro

Warrants charging first degree murder will be sworn out this afternoon for two white men arrested last night for complicity in the fatal beating of Green Patton, negro worker for Republic Steel Corp's Thomas furnace.

The two men were arrested by Detectives F. W. Jackson and R. J. Grant. Green was taken from a Pratt-Ensley street car Sunday night in the Ensley and died in Hillman hospital the next morning from the result of being beaten. John Henderson, his negro companion, fled to safety and though three shots were fired at him.

The bullet struck the negro in the back of the thigh and ranged upward, it was said.

Superior officers indicated that Holland and Cronier both were justified in firing.

Alabama Negro Killer, Fugitive From Atmore, Slain In North Florida Town Ala. Sheriff Bails Out Murderers of Poor White Farmer

Victim of Kluxers Was Sympathetic to Negro Croppers' Struggles

CAMP HILL, Ala., June 1.—The Sharecroppers Union is investigating the brutal murder by four K. K. K. lynchers of W. Davis, a Tallapoosa County poor white tenant farmer who was known to be sympathetic to the struggles of the Negro croppers. Another white sympathiser was recently killed in Chambers County.

Davis was found with his throat slashed, and his body cut and bruised from a severe beating given him before he was killed.

Harvey Pew, notorious lynch leader of the Ku Klux Klan, has given himself up as the murderer. The other three are Marvin, Wilson Phillips and Clarence Baker.

The Sheriff, Kyle Young, together with a big landlord, J. D. East, furnished bail of \$1,000 for the four, who were released immediately. Sheriff Kyle at the same time jailed a Negro cropper who had witnessed the murder. The cropper is threatened with lynching.

Davis was murdered shortly after

an unsuccessful attempt to ambush a white organizer of the union. The lynchers no doubt suspected Davis of warning the organizer, because of his known sympathies with the Negro croppers and his frequent statements that "the Communists are for the poor fellow, Negro and white."

The union plans to expose the facts of this murder, which have been suppressed by the local press.

RICHMOND, VA. TIMES DISPATCH

MAY 23 1934

The Fredericksburg Case

VIRGINIA now has been shocked by one of those ruthless deeds of violence which have been reported in other parts of the country during the present crime wave.

A Fredericksburg man and the girl to whom he was betrothed on Sunday night were beaten unconscious as they sat in a car in a secluded lane. Then they were dumped heartlessly in an old Confederate trench and left to die.

It is a horrible crime. Virginians will pray for the success of the Federal agents put on the case.

Meanwhile, local feeling is running high, as is only natural. But local feeling should be controlled, else there may be unfortunate happenings.

There may be many clues and many theories before the case is solved. Conclusions should not be too hastily drawn.

In the first frantic search for "leads," investigators recalled that recently another couple in the same locality met a large Negro carrying a shotgun. They had a suspicion they might be held up, but meanwhile another car came along, and the Negro vanished.

The Negro may have been entirely innocent of any thought of molesting the first couple. Certainly in the case of MILTON BROWN and FANNIE KURTZ, there is nothing to indicate that he had a hand in the assault. If he was armed with a shotgun and intended them harm, it is far more likely that he would have fired, instead of beating them unconscious.

The motive of robbery is far from being clearly established. True, the man's wallet—if he had it with him—is missing. But that easily might have been lost in the struggle.

What is far more probable is that the double assault was the work of a madman.

NEGRO SLAIN BY DEPUTY

EUFALA, Ala., June 19.—(Special) —George McGruder, 35-year-old negro, was fatally shot by Sheriff Forrest Grantham Saturday night at Comer Ala., when Grantham attempted to arrest the negro for disorderly conduct and the reckless firing of a pistol in the Comer Community. Sheriff Pitt Williams investigated the case and exonerated Grantham of blame on the grounds of self-defense. Grantham was a recent candidate for sheriff in Barbour County.

Greene County Negro's Sentence Is Commuted

The sentence of death imposed on Lovelle Williams, 50-year-old Greene County negro, convicted of the murder of his wife and son who was to have been electrocuted early Friday morning at Kilby Prison was commuted yesterday by Gov. Miller, to life imprisonment. The Chief Executive's action was based on the unanimous recommendation of the State Board of Pardons, also upon the report of a sanity commission whose members after an examination of Williams declared he is very ignorant and possesses the average mentality of a 15-year-old negro boy.

Negro Slain; Two Seriously Wounded

One negro was killed and two others probably fatally wounded in a shooting at Pike Road and Montgomery yesterday.

Two negro youths, both excellent marksmen, engaged in a pistol duel last night at Pike Road following what officers described as a "drinking and gambling spree." As the result Roosevelt Washington, 25, was dead, and Willie Robert Lewis, alias "Candy" Williams, was shot through the body five times.

Sheriff's Deputies Moxley and Sellers said that Washington fired at Lewis six times. Five of the bullets took effect. Lewis returned the fire, and Washington fell dead with a bullet in his heart.

Yesterday morning, well before daylight, Walker Gamble, negro, was shot from ambush on the 600 block of South Holt Street. Police Officers Cobb and Riddle found the wounded negro on the sidewalk and took him to a hospital. The condition of Lewis and Gamble were said to be critical.

NEGRO QUIZZED IN STORE DEATH

Suspect Is Arrested For Questioning: Howards

Fail On Trail
ANNISTON, July 14. — Sheriff A. H. Borders today arrested Gene

Morgan, negro, for questioning ining intoxicated, the arrest of four per-truder seeking to burglarize their home, several persons are ready to testify that they saw Jones two days in succession with McMurrian in the latter's Ford truck. Workers here believe Jones was working for McMurrian and was murdered when he demanded his wages.

Evins was shot fatally Thursday night just inside the door of his store at White Plains near here.

Bloodhounds were brought from Chattanooga and placed on the trail of the killer, believed to be a negro whose motive was robbery or burglary. The trail led toward Jacksonville, but was lost.

Evins' body was found in a sitting position by Tab Cobb, who ran to the store after he heard a shot preceded by loud talking. There was evidence of a struggle between the aged storekeeper and his assailant. Keys to the store and a lighted lantern lay at his feet.

A single shot had pierced his heart.

Funeral was held at 4 p.m. yesterday.

Survivors are a brother, F. W. Evins, of DeArmanville, and six sisters, Mrs. J. H. Flemming, Fentress, Texas; Mrs. H. G. McClurkin, Oxford; Mrs. J. S. Stevens, Atlanta; Mrs. D. B. Curry, Anniston; Mrs. C. Evins LeGrand, Birmingham, and Miss Neva Evins, of Oxford.

NEGRO SLAIN, TWO SHOT IN DICE GAME

Police Seeking Joshua Roberson For Wholesale Pistol Affray

One negro fell mortally wounded and two others received serious pistol bullet wounds in their bodies at 1:30 a.m. yesterday when Joshua Roberson, South Holt Street, fired into a group of dice players. Abraham's Vineyard, about 2000 feet south of the city limits, Curley Carlisle, of Abraham's Vineyard, was shot through a vital organ and died while en route to a hospital in an ambulance. Carlisle was 55 years old.

Willie Butler, of Cleveland Road, and Peter Brown, 207 Carter Hill Road, recently suffered body wounds. They were taken to a hospital and then to police headquarters for treatment. Barring complications both are expected to recover.

Police said they understood that Roberson emptied his pistol at the group of players when he became angered over a charge that a "throw" of the dice had been unfair. Details of the difficulty, however, were lacking.

Roberson fled from the scene and yesterday was being sought.

Other police activities yesterday included the arrest of five persons for be-

PASTOR INDICTED IN MURDER CASE

First Degree Charge Laid To Moulton Pastor, No Bill Against Son

MOULTON, Aug. 8.—(Special.)—Rev. L. P. Royer, pastor of Moulton Baptist church, was indicted for first degree murder in the slaying of Frank Pickens, aged farmer and deacon, by the Lawrence county grand jury here today.

The minister's 14-year-old son, William, who had been held with his father in connection with the slaying, was not indicted.

Young Royer, it was announced by court attaches, probably will be turned over to juvenile court authorities and placed on probation. After learning of his indictment, Rev. Royer still maintained his innocence.

Deacon Pickens was shot off his mule near here July 23, after he had led a fight to force Rev. Royer's resignation.

Eight witnesses testified before the grand jury. One a negro girl, was said to have been an eye wit-homes in the North Birmingham section have been entered by a negro in the past few months, and on May 11, a negro abducted daughter, who sleeps in the room, was spending the night away from home.

Indictments for first degree murder in two other cases were returned by the grand jury.

John Varnell was charged with the slaying of Thelvert Patrick in bedroom at her home, 2411 30th March, 1931, near Wheeler. Two negroes who are charged with having aided Varnell in burying the body and later exhuming and cremating it, were indicted as accomplices.

Henry Stuart was indicted for the slaying of John Dupree at Macedonia church, near here, last July.

Demand Probe into Killing of Negro Youth in Birmingham

By a Worker Correspondent

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Aug. 14.—Birmingham workers are demanding an investigation into the killing of Roy Jones, 21-year old Negro youth, by R. B. McMurrian, white business man, of 1913 31st Ave., N.

While McMurrian and his wife claim that Jones is unknown to them and was shot down as an in-

testify that they saw Jones two days in succession with McMurrian in the latter's Ford truck. Workers here believe Jones was working for McMurrian and was murdered when he demanded his wages.

Meanwhile, the police have eagerly accepted McMurrian's story and are referring to Jones as a long-sought burglar who is alleged to have entered homes in the North Birmingham section in the past few months.

NEGRO BURGLAR SHOT TO DEATH

Invader Surprised While In North Birmingham Home Slain By Resident

Police believed today that a series of depredations in North Birmingham homes in the past few months were ended with the fatal shooting yesterday of Roy Jones, 21, negro, in the home of R. B. McMurrian, 1913 31st Ave., N.

The negro was discovered by Mrs. McMurrian when she walked through the bedroom of their eight-year-old son. He was in bed with her, the officers said.

Mrs. McMurrian fired two shots into the negro's chest when his wife mule near here July 23, after he had led a fight to force Rev. Royer's resignation.

The officers reported Mr. McMurrian told them that his 12-year-old daughter, who sleeps in the room, was spending the night away from home.

Several homes in the North Birmingham section have been entered by a negro in the past few months, and on May 11, a negro abducted daughter, who sleeps in the room, was spending the night away from home.

and on May 11, a negro abducted daughter, who sleeps in the room, was spending the night away from home.

She was taken from the house and returned about two hours later while police and neighbors were searching the vicinity. The child had been attacked, police said.

The negro lived at 2003 29th Ave., n., only three blocks from the McMurrian home.

NEGRO MINER GIVEN LIFE IN MURDER CASE

Guilty Plea In Leeds Ambush Shooting

Phillip Smith, negro miner, was sentenced to life imprisonment today when he pleaded guilty in Judge John P. McCoy's court to charges of murder in the shooting of another negro during the coal mine strikes here in June. Smith admitted the ambush shooting of L. T. Lacy, negro, who was slain while going to work at a mine near Leeds on June 13.

NEGRO THIEF KILLED BY NIGHT WATCHMAN

Justifiable Homicide Held In Burglar's Death

An unidentified negro was killed by a Grayson-Lumber Co. watchman early today as he entered the company's main office at 715 39th St., n.

The watchman, R. M. Bennett, of 822 36th St., n., said that as he saw the negro enter, the latter jumped at him with a pair of pliers in his hand. Bennett shot the negro four times. He died instantly.

Officers said the side door of the main office, the warehouse door and the paint room door had been broken open. Several rolls of roofing, a quantity of wire and paint were found near the office this morning where the negro had apparently left them.

Coroner Evans returned a verdict of justifiable homicide.

NEGRO IS ACCUSED IN VETERAN'S DEATH

One-Armed Man Charged With Fatal Stabbing Victim

GADSDEN, Dec. 31.—(Special.)—John Magwood, 41-year-old negro, was lodged in county jail today on a charge of stabbing E. H. O'Bar, World war veteran, on Oct. 21. Magwood surrendered to the sheriff Saturday.

O'Bar was said to have gone to the negro's home to purchase a drink. A row followed, in which the negro cut O'Bar in the chest. O'Bar had his wounds treated at Gadsden hospital and returned to the negro's home the same night, again being stabbed, this time fatally.

Magwood claims O'Bar shot at him. He showed deputies a hole in his coat which he said was caused by a bullet.

Killings - 1934

Alabama.

Alabamian Killed, 2 Shot By Negro

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Nov. 29.—(AP)—An enraged negro firing at another here today, fatally injured a white man, seriously wounded a white woman, and a second woman was cut by flying glass broken by a bullet. The pursued negro, who dodged behind Ernest Rochell, salesman, and used him as a shield, was not wounded and escaped in the excitement with his would-be assailant.

Rochell was struck in the head by a bullet and died a few hours later. Mrs. R. D. Hill, who was riding along the street with her husband and mother-in-law, also was struck in the head, and Mrs. Robert Hill was cut on the head by glass shattered by the bullet which struck their car.

Hill was driving the automobile with his mother and wife on the rear seat as the negroes became engaged in a street fracas and firing broke out.

DRUNKEN NEGRO KILLER HUNTED

**Pedestrian, Used As Shield,
Slain, Two Women In
Automobile Shot**

Two wild shots from the gun of a drunken Negro left one white man dead today and two white women wounded, one so critically she may die.

The dead man was Ernest Rochell, 36, of 2909 11th-av, n. He was shot through the head when a Negro, intended victim of the drunken gunman, used him as a shield against the assailant's bullets.

R. D. Hill, of 1224 29th-st, n, had just reached the intersection of 24th-st and 10th-av, n, in his automobile when he witnessed the shooting. He stopped the car and hurriedly entered a store at the street intersection to call police. He left his wife and mother in the car.

The Negro with the gun fired wildly again. This time the bullet struck Hill's wife in the head and sprayed glass over Mrs. Robert Hill, 1519 Walnut-cir, his mother, cutting her about the face.

Negroes Flee Scene

Both the Negro who did the shooting and the one for whom the bullets were intended fled. Police expected to arrest both today. Witnesses

said the gunman was Wilson Crawford, of 2216 10th-av, n.

Mr. Rochell, a salesman for the Orange Crush Bottling Co., was taken to St. Vincent's hospital in a Luquire ambulance. He died three hours later.

Johns' ambulances took the two women to South Highlands Infirmary, from where the elder Mrs. Hill was dismissed after treatment for the glass cut. The condition of Mrs. R. D. Hill, 31, was termed critical.

Suspect Former Convict

Crawford, the hunted Negro, is a former county convict, police records show. He served a 49-day sentence in a convict camp.

Mr. Rochell, a resident of Birmingham for 20 years, is survived by his wife, a daughter, Virginia, 14, a sister, Mrs. Leila Osborne, and two brothers, R. R. and W. C., all of Birmingham.

Luquire will announce funeral arrangements.

OFFICER'S 'PRANK' IS FATAL TO NEGRO

**Isaac Mitchell Dies Of Pistol
Bullet Wound**

Death claimed Isaac Mitchell, Negro, today as a result of a "prank" played upon him Wednesday night by his friend, Officer F. E. Duke.

The Negro died in Hillman Hospital from a wound inflicted by the policeman's pistol. The officer, who is under indefinite suspension, explained that he only meant to "scare" Mitchell when he drew his gun and pointed it at him in a cafe at 1817 Avenue F, Ensley, where the Negro was employed as a dishwasher.

Holding the gun in one hand, Officer Duke concealed a holiday torpedo in the other, he said. When he threw the torpedo on the floor it exploded and at the same time the gun went off, he explained.

Mitchell lived at 1607 Avenue G, Ensley. The Negro asked before his death that no blame be placed on Officer Duke.

"He didn't mean to do it," Mitchell said.

Carolina Officer Killed In Negro Church Brawl

GREENVILLE, S. C., Dec. 25.—(AP)—Seeking to halt what appeared to be a free-for-all fight at a negro church near here E. E. Milan, patrolman of the law enforcement division of the State Highway Department, was shot to death today.

The body was found, officers said, by a bus driver who passed by a few minutes after the killing. Sheriff's officers, who had been called to investigate the disturbance at the church, arrived on the scene.

Two negroes, whose names the Sheriff's office was unable to furnish, were arrested in connection with the affair, but authorities were still searching tonight for two other negroes, including the man who was believed to have fired the fatal shot.

NEGRO KILLS WHITE MAN; IN JAIL HERE

**Surrenders To Lowndes County
Sheriff After Shooting In
Fort Deposit**

Richard Goldsmith, negro carpenter of Fort Deposit, is held in the Montgomery County Jail here in connection with the slaying Christmas Eve at Fort Deposit of Guy Sellers, 32, lumber truck driver, and the wounding of I. P. Sheffield, 30, in a shooting affray at a negro house.

Sheriff Buck Meadows of Lowndes County, brought Goldsmith to Montgomery yesterday after the negro had surrendered to officers at Hayneville shortly after the shooting.

Secrecy surrounded the arrest and removal of the negro to Montgomery and it was reported that feeling was running high over the shooting, which is said to have been the result of a quarrel over whisky between the negro and Sellers Sheffield and another white man.

It was reported in Fort Deposit yesterday that Goldsmith, a home-owner and the bearer of a good reputation in his community, had come to Montgomery to surrender at Kilby Prison, but a check revealed that the negro had given up to Sheriff Meadows Monday night.

Sheffield, wounded in the shoulder, was released from a Greenville hospital yesterday afternoon and returned to his home. Sheffield also is a lumber truck driver. The third white man was not wounded.

Sellers died almost instantly from a bullet wound in the heart. Surviving are his wife and a 2-year-old child, his

mother, a brother and two sisters. The funeral was held at Fort Deposit yesterday afternoon with burial in Sandy Ridge Cemetery, Black and Glass in charge.

The three white men are reported to have gone to the negro house in the northern part of Fort Deposit about 8 p.m. Christmas Eve, and the quarrel started that resulted in the death of Sellers and the wounding of Sheffield. A Fort Deposit citizen said that Goldsmith owned his home, an automobile, that he had a bank account and was a well-thought-of negro citizen. He is about 45 years old.

Killings-1934

JARMAN ADVOCATES DEATH FOR KINNEY

Negro To Die Friday Unless Governor Intervenes; Board

Two To One

Secretary of State Pete B. Jarman, Jr. in a written report, yesterday declined to recommend clemency in the case of Fred Kinney, a white man, convicted of the murder of Jimmie Phillips, a white man; and who is to be executed in the electric chair at Kilby Prison Friday morning, unless Gov. Miller intervenes in his behalf. The other two members of the Pardon Board have already passed on the negro's application for commutation of sentence to life imprisonment. Atty. Gen. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., like Mr. Jarman, refused to recommend commutation. Favorable recommendation was made, however, by State Auditor John Brandon.

At hearing of his clemency petition before the Governor and Pardon Board, Kinney staged a dramatic scene when he fell on his knees, and with tears streaming down his face, declared he killed Phillips in self-defense, that they grew up together as children, played together; that he loved him dearly, and would raise him from the dead "as Lazarus was raised," if he had the power to do so. Published accounts of the hearing brought letters and telegram interceding for Kinney, from various sections of the country, one being received from Ben Bernie, famous orchestra director.

Kinney claimed he struck Phillips in the head with an iron poker after the latter had pushed him into a fireplace and pulled a pistol and pointed it at him. According to testimony in the file in the case, however, Phillips was found with his head battered almost to a pulp, and it was also charged that his money and pistol were missing.

In his report regarding Kinney's application Secretary of State Jarman said: "This applicant made the best plea before the Board I have ever heard. At that time the files contained very little, which caused me to give very serious thought to his excellent plea of self defense, and to desire to make a personal investigation before taking action on his application. Circumstances beyond my control prevented me making this investigation prior to the original date for his execution, causing me to recommend a four-week stay of execution."

"Since then the file has been added to; furthermore, I have made a rather exhaustive investigation, including an inspection of the house in which the killing occurred; a conversation with the solicitor, deputy-solicitor, physician, and

numerous other citizens in Perry County that he had presided over the Grand Jury, those who favor clemency as well as those who protested. As the result thereof, I decline to recommend interference with the sentence of the court."

Brandon, who sat through the four clemency hearing and heard the entire evidence of both sides, made his recommendation on these grounds:

"The defendant in this case was indicted by a Grand Jury in the county where he lived. He had two trials in the Circuit Court of his county, the latter trial resulting in a conviction."

"His case was appealed to the Supreme Court of this state, which court affirmed the decision of the Circuit Court. His case was then appealed to the United States Supreme Court, which court declined to interfere."

"One living eye-witness to this double murder states that she is positive in her identification that Willie Peterson is the one who committed the crimes."

"In view of these facts, I do not feel justified in recommending setting aside the verdict of the court. Peterson's attorneys at the clemency hearing contended that description given by Mrs. Reese shortly after the crime did not fit Peterson."

Peterson was unable to attend the clemency hearing, prison physicians stating that he could not be moved from the tuberculosis ward at Kilby Prison Hospital to the state capital because of his weakened condition. Mr. and Mrs. Clarke Williams, parents of Miss Augusta Williams and Mrs. Reese, and Wade Wood, father of Miss Jennie Wood, appeared at the clemency hearing and asked Gov. Miller not to interfere with the death verdict.

Brandon, member of the State Pardon Board, Saturday recommended to Gov. Miller that the execution of Willie Peterson, Birmingham Negro convicted of killing Miss Augusta Williams, of Birmingham, be carried out March 30.

Brandon, the sole member of the board to sit at the Peterson clemency hearing and return a recommendation, said that he did not feel justified in recommending setting aside the verdict of the court.

Peterson, who denied he was guilty, was charged with killing Miss Augusta Williams and Miss Jennie Wood, and wounding Miss Nell Williams, no wMrs. Louis Reese, Jr., after holding the girls captive on Shades Mountain near Birmingham, for more than two hours. Mrs. Reese positively identified Peterson at his trial, and 10 days ago told Gov. Miller and Mr. Brandon "I couldn't possibly be mistaken. He is the man."

Mr. Brandon's recommendation will be laid on Gov. Miller's desk Monday morning for a final decision by the chief executive on Peterson's plea for commutation to life imprisonment. Mr. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., attorney general and member of the pardon board, recused himself from the Peterson hearing on the grounds

Alabama.

Issued At Capitol

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(AP)—Gov. Miller Tuesday commuted to life imprisonment the death sentence of Willie Peterson, Birmingham Negro convicted of the slaying of Miss Augusta Williams, prominent society girl of Birmingham.

Peterson, confined to the tuberculosis ward at Kilby Prison Hospital and pronounced incurable, was to have died in the electric chair March 30.

"The testimony is in striking, strong conflict," Gov. Miller said in his commutation statement after reviewing the case in detail, "as to whether Willie Peterson or another committed this heinous offense. There is grave doubt as to his guilt. Doubts rise up here and there as to his guilt in the testimony."

"The punishment fixed by statute for such offense is discretionary—life imprisonment or death. Under such circumstances as stated and shown by the record, he should not be placed in the electric chair but imprisoned for life in the penitentiary."

The governor based his commutation action entirely on the question of identification, declaring that "the crime is heinous. It is unmitigated. There are no mitigating circumstances. There was only one real question and issue, from the evidence, before the jury and before us."

"Was Willie Peterson the offender?" Mrs. Louie Reese, Jr., of Birmingham, who was wounded by the assailant who killed her sister, Miss Augusta Williams, and her friend, Miss Jennie Wood, positively identified Peterson at the trial and before Gov. Miller at the clemency hearing here March 6.

The state convicted Peterson of the crime, declaring he jumped on the car driven by the girls as they were riding along in Shades Mountain, and forced them to turn into a lonely road.

Here, the state contended, Peterson held the girls captive more than two hours, then shot all three of them. Miss Augusta Williams died that night, Miss Wood died some days later and Mrs. Reese when Miss Nell Williams, recovered.

Gov. Miller's commutation statement, in part, follows: "Miss Nell Williams positively identifies Willie Peterson as the guilty offender."

"Immediately after the offense was committed rewards aggregating about \$3,000 were offered for the arrest and conviction of the guilty person. This, in the description of the Negro, was circularized and sent broadcast. He was described as having gold inlay behind his lower front teeth. This description did not correspond with the description of him by Miss Nell Williams. Willie Peterson has no gold inlay behind his front teeth."

"A Negro, the next day after the

offense was committed, was seen and reported to have passed in or near Lincoln, Ala., answering the description of the one in the circular and had gold inlay in his lower teeth. He inquired to know if newspapers showed that women were killed in mountains near Birmingham and if they had heard of it. He was traced and his trail lost in Georgia."

"Some time after the offense was committed, Miss Nell Williams and a gentleman friend were riding in an automobile in the city of Birmingham. They passed Willie Peterson. He was walking the street. She remarked in substance 'That looks like him. The car was turned. It was driven back to him. He was called to it. He went to them without hesitation. She accused him of the crime. He denied it. Under direction, he got in the car. He was unarmed. He was arrested and placed in jail.'

The governor then described the shooting of Peterson in the Birmingham Jail by Dent Williams, a brother of the slain girl.

The sheriff, Mr. Hawkins, was present," the statement continued, and he describes what occurred in the room immediately after the shooting as follows:

"I was present the night the defendant was shot and heard Mr. Long, representing the solicitor, give him the worst grilling I ever heard. He told the Negro he was dying with a lie on his lips and urged him to make peace with God. The Negro replied, 'you got the wrong nigger.'"

"Mr. Long told him he wouldn't live two minutes and asked him if he had any message to leave. He answered, 'Yes, tell my wife to meet me in heaven.' Mr. Long replied, 'Yes, where niggers are as good as white folks.' The defendant replied, 'No sir, there is a place there for both of us.' I understand that Mr. Bailes, the solicitor, was called some hours later to the hospital and the Negro was told he couldn't live and Mr. Bailes tried to get him to admit his guilt. He firmly denied his guilt."

Governor Saves

Willie Peterson

Says 'Grave Doubt' Exists That He Is Perpetrator Of Birmingham Outrage

Declaring in his official order that there is "grave doubt" of the guilt of Willie Peterson, Jefferson County negro, convicted of the murder of Miss Augusta Williams, Birmingham society girl, Gov. Miller yesterday commuted to life imprisonment the death sentence imposed upon Peterson, which was to have been executed March 30. In ad-

NEGRO WILL SERVE LIFE IN PRISON ON GOVERNOR'S ORDER

Miller Commutes Sentence Of Man Condemned In Miss Williams' Slaying

3-21-34

GRAVE DOUBT OF GUILT IS SEEN BY EXECUTIVE

Strong Conflict In Testimony

Is Cited In Statement

have been executed March 30. In ad-

fitment to the murder of Miss Augustacoin, Ala., answering the description of Williams, the negro was also charged the one in the circular, and had gold inlay with killing Miss Nellie Wood and shoot-lay in his lower teeth. He inquired to ing and dangerously wounding Miss Nellknow if newspapers showed that women Williams, sister of Miss Augusta Wil-were killed in mountains of Birmingham, after holding them prisoner at aham and if they had heard of it. He was lonely spot on Shade's Mountain, neartraced and the trail was lost in Geor-Birmingham, for more than four hours. He was not found.

Peterson who has steadily and repeat- "Many were arrested in different parts- edly maintained since his arrest, that heof Alabama and elsewhere, as suspects is innocent of the crime he was con-Sheriff Hawkins states in writing that: in convicted of committing, is suffering fromI consulted Mr. Clark Williams and he tuberculosis. Physicians have pronouncedtold me to have their mouth examined if him incurable. For more than a monthand if there was no gold or evidencefirst degree and fixed his punishment a- he has been under treatment in theof gold in the lower teeth to releasdeath in the electric chair. hospital at Kilby, where his conditionthem.' In reference to the Lincoln ne- "The punishment fixed by statute for has improved and he has gained con-gro, Sheriff Hawkins stated: 'To mymurder in the first degree is imprison- siderably in weight. He lay quietly in hismind that was the best clue we had,' ment in the penitentiary for life or bed when word was brought to him yes- "Some time after the offense was com-death, at the discretion of the trial jury terday that his life had been sparedmitted Miss Nell Williams and a gentle- "Sheriff Hawkins is of the opinion and received the news with but little ap-man friend were riding in an automobilethat Willie Peterson is not the guilty party. parent interest or emotion, except toin the City of Birmingham. They passedparty. He writes us: smile as he said: "Tell the Governor IWilliam Peterson. He was walking on the "I have talked with nearly every offi- sure do appreciate it." Told the Chietstreet. She remarked in substance thatcer who worked on this case, both city Executive evidently was not convincedlooks like him. He was called to it. Heand county, and my judgment is every- he was the guilty man, the negro re-went to them without hesitation. Sheone, with possibly one exception, is of- plied: "He's right," and again assertingaccused him of the crime. He denied it the opinion that we have the wrong ne- his innocence, added: "I didn't know aUnder direction he got in the car. Negro." thing about it."

Eleventh Capital Case
Since he returned to his office on a few days after Willie Peterson was placed in jail Miss Nell Williams, her brother and other relatives of some of Jan. 23, following his long siege of ill-ness with undulant fever, eleven capital cases have come before Gov. Miller for he three ladies, together with the sher- final decision. Five of the condemned ff and assistant solicitor, who prosecutes were executed. He commuted the sen-for the State, went to a room in the jail for tences of five others, including a wo-Willie Peterson was brought to the room: man. One died while his application for them to see him. Peterson was the clemency was pending. All were ne- only negro present. The relatives of m- groes. Commutation by the Governor in- the deceased ladies and officials present- his order yesterday, of Peterson's sen- in the room numbered 10 or 12. Miss tence, disposes of the case of the last- Nell Williams then and there charged- condemned prisoner at Kilby. The death- Willie Peterson with the crime—stating- cells there are now empty.

Following is the text of the order:
"This is an application for executive clemency by Willie Peterson.
"He was indicted for offense of mur- der—killing Miss Augusta Williams. He was tried and convicted by a jury; they fixed his punishment at death. The Supreme Court on appeal found no re- versible error, affirmed the judgment of the Circuit Court; and the U. S. Su- preme Court did not interfere with the judgment on appeal.
"Three ladies, including Miss Augustag Williams, were shot at the same time; two died in the wounds; one, Miss Nell Williams, survived; one was raped, and the negro was the guilty offender. The crime is heinous. It is unmentioned. There were no miti- gating circumstances.
"There was only one real question and issue, from the evidence before the jury and before me.
"Was Willie Peterson the offender?
"Miss Nell Williams positively identi- fies Willie Peterson as the guilty of- fender.
"Immediately after the offense was committed rewards, aggregating about \$3,000, were offered for the arrest and conviction of the guilty person. This with description of the negro was cir- cularized and sent broadcast. He was de- scribed as having gold inlay behind his lowest front teeth. This description did not correspond with the description of him by Miss Nell Williams. Willie Peterson has no gold inlay behind his lower front teeth.
"A negro, the next day after the of- fense was committed, was seen and re- sorted to have passed in or near Lin-

Other grand jurors, after seeing him, en- the fact that the grounds for doubt were- tained similar opinion, from the evi-strong enough to warrant interference with the- verdict of the courts. The commutation was a- dence. "After he was indicted, Willie Peter-brave act bravely performed.—Selma Times- Journal

The Commutation Of Peterson's Sentence
Gov. Miller has commuted Willie Peterson's death sentence to life imprisonment because he finds there is "grave doubt" that Peterson is the guilty man in this horrible case. "The testimony is in striking, strong conflict as to whether Wil- lie Peterson or another committed this heinous offense," says the governor in his statement ac- companying the order of commutation. "Doubts rise up here and there as to his guilt in the tes- timony."

In all the circumstances, this is to be regarded as a wise and courageous resolution to a most difficult problem. Whatever opinion one may hold concerning the case, this comes as near to justice as it is possible, in the circumstances, to come. For if Peterson is the guilty man, the cause of justice will be served by his imprisonment for life. And life imprisonment, if borne in mind, is a severe penalty; in some states, where capital punishment has been abandoned, it is the supreme penalty. Gov. Miller points out, more- over, that the punishment fixed by statute for such an offense is discretionary—life imprison- ment or death.

On the other hand, if Peterson is innocent, he will not suffer death, and if there has been a mistake in identity and it should happen that the guilty person is some day found, then it would not be too late partially to correct the error. If Gov. Miller had been confronted with the question of either letting the death sentence be carried out or turning Peterson free, it would have been another matter. But the question was whether to execute a man about whose guilt there is some doubt, and thus preclude all chance of partially correcting a possible error, or whether to imprison him for life, so that justice would be served if he is guilty but the avenue of correc- tion would not be closed.

Sentiment Divided
"Many citizens write urging life im- prisonment and many write insisting on the death penalty. "The trial judge and solicitor recom- mend that no change be made in the punishment fixed by the jury. "Willie Peterson resided in Jeffersor County in or near the City of Birming- ham. He did not run away when this heinous offense was committed. There is evidence that he was or is a law abid- er of Miss Williams shot him three times with a pistol, each ball taking effect. "The Board of Pardons did not sit as a body at the hearing. Attorney Gen- eral, Mr. Knight, recused himself as he represented the State before the Grand jury when the indictment was returned. Secretary of State, Mr. Jarman, was sick at the time of the hearing and could not be present. The Auditor, Mr. John Brandon, sat with me, heard the testi- mony and recommends the death pen- alty be enforced in the electric chair. "The testimony is in striking, strong conflict as to whether Willie Peterson or another committed this heinous of- fense. There is grave doubt of his guilt. Doubts rise up here and there as to his guilt in the testimony.

Mr. Long replied, 'Yes, where niggers are as good as white folks.' The defendan such offense is discretionary—life im- prisonment or death. Under such cir- cumstances as stated and shown by the Bailes, the solicitor, was called som- record, he should not be placed in the electric chair, but imprisoned for life in the penitentiary."

Severely Grilled
"I was present the night the defend- ant was shot and heard Mr. Long, repre- senting the solicitor, give him the worst grilling I ever heard. He told the negro he was dying with a lie on his lips andly he was enforced in the electric chair. "The negro replied: You got the wrong nigger. Mr. Long told him he wouldn't be another committed this heinous of- fense. There is grave doubt of his guilt. Doubts rise up here and there as to his guilt in the testimony. "The punishment fixed by statute for such offense is discretionary—life im- prisonment or death. Under such cir- cumstances as stated and shown by the Bailes, the solicitor, was called som- record, he should not be placed in the electric chair, but imprisoned for life in the penitentiary."

NEGRO IS CONVICTED FOR TRAFFIC DEATH
Draws Year At Hard Labor, \$500 Fine For Killing Stewart
Nathan Hunter, negro, Bessemer, today faced a year at hard labor or the county roads and a \$500 fine for the death of A. O. Stewart clerk in the tax assessor's office. Hunter was found guilty of second degree manslaughter by a jury in Judge John P. McCoy's court for the clerk's death. Stewart was fatal- ly injured in a crash between the negro's car and his own machine on the Brighton road last April.

THE PETERSON CASE
Real courage, the essential ingredient of high character, is shown by Gov. Miller in the Peterson case. It would have been easy to languidly step aside and let this Negro's life be snuffed out by an electric spark, but the Governor, charged with a solemn duty, dared to perform it. He commuted the sentence to life imprisonment. Thousands of good sized Birmingham were never convicted that Peterson was the "right man" although the crime with which he was charged was so dia- bolical it cried to heaven for expiation. Governor Miller gave long and earnest study to the evidence and was profoundly moved by

NEGRO IS ACCUSED IN VETERAN'S DEATH

One-Armed Man Charged With Fatal Stabbing Victim

GADSDEN, Oct. 30.—(Special).—John Magwood, 41, one-armed negro, was lodged in county jail today on a charge of fatally stab- bing E. H. O'Bar, World war vet- eran, on Oct. 21. Magwood sur- rendered to the sheriff Saturday. O'Bar was said to have gone to the negro's home to purchase a drink. A row followed, in which the negro cut O'Bar in the chest. O'Bar had his wounds treated at a Gadsden hospital and returned to the negro's home the same night, again being stabbed, this time fatally. Magwood claims O'Bar shot at him. He showed deputies a hole in his coat which he said was caused by a bullet.

YOUTHFUL SLAYER OF NEGRO ON PROBATION

Jury's Five-Year Verdict Is Set Aside By Court

Circuit Judge John P. McCoy today placed Norman Virgiglio, 20, on two years' probation after a jury sentenced the youth to five years in prison for the fatal stab- bing of Willie Frank Means, 18- year-old Negro, last March 16.

Virgiglio entered a plea of guilty to a charge of first degree man- slaughter by agreement between defense counsel and the solicitor's office. Judge McCoy tentatively set aside the jury verdict in grant- ing probation.

Aged Negro Sentenced For Murder In Barbour

EUFULA, ALA., Dec. 7.—(Special)—Monroe Lewis, 81-year-old negro, was given a life sentence in Circuit Court Wednesday after his conviction of the murder of Eli Stringer, white overseer on the J. W. Calhoun plantation north of Eufaula.

Stringer died in a local hospital a week after he was fatally stabbed by the negro in a field on the plantation. The difficulty occurred when Stringer remonstrated with Lewis for not gather- ing corn as he was told. Lewis be- came enraged, drew a knife on the over- seer who struck him with a stick. The negro then stabbed Stringer in the lungs and across the abdomen.

Killings-1934

Alabama.

TAYLOR CRIES INNOCENCE; SAYS NEGRO KILLED CO-ED

THE PARTING OF THE WAYS



—Staff Photo.
Harold Taylor, left, was held in county jail today charged with murdering Faye New. At the right is A. B. Cain, close friend of Miss New, who was released by police after lengthy questioning.

**Suspect In Faye New Murder Clings To His
Story Of Not Guilty; Police Declare Case
Ready To Go Before Jurors**

VICTIM'S FUNERAL TODAY AT HEFLIN

**Court Record's Reveal Accused Man Had His
First Marriage Annulled On Drunk Plea,
Footprints At Scene Are Compared**

"If I did a thing like that I would be a raving maniac or would have shot my brains out within an hour."

Thus Harold Taylor, in a county jail cell today charged with the murder of Miss Faye New, Howard college co-ed, repeated his denial of the most sensational crime Birmingham has seen in years.

Police Chief Luther Hollums, declaring "the case is ready for the jury," prepared to have a warrant taken out against Taylor today for the brutal stabbing of the girl athlete whose body was found in a cornfield near Irondale yesterday.

Though declaring that "it is all a horrible mystery to me," the 29-year-old son of a former city comptroller told a Post reporter this morning he believes a negro committed the crime.

"He probably came upon the girl where she had hidden from me upon leaving my car," Taylor progress, and he accepted. said. He has admitted driving the girl—whom he had met little more than an hour earlier—to a by-road a mile from the death scene and making advances to her which she angrily repulsed.

Had Marriage Annulled
"All I know is that somebody did kill her and I had absolutely nothing to do with it," the suspect asserted.

Taylor, court records show, has been married but the marriage was annulled on his claim of being too intoxicated to know what he was about at the time of the ceremony, according to the records.

Taylor at present is engaged to an Ensley girl, he said today.

Taylor married Veda Parker, of Birmingham, in the summer of 1928 and had the marriage annulled about six months later. The late Judge Joe C. Hail signed the order annulling the marriage.

Testifying in the annulment hearing, Taylor said he met Miss Parker for the first time a few hours before the marriage.

Whirlwind Courtship
"I never saw her before until the morning we were married," he testified. "I met her at 6:30 o'clock Sunday morning and married her before noon that day."

Taylor testified he was introduced to Miss Parker by Loyd Wheeler, a friend.

Wheeler, he said, invited him to a house where a liquor party was in

of Taylor's shoes and compared it with approximately 50 of the footprints of the man, which paralleled those of Miss New. The shoe fitted the prints perfectly. Detective Jackson said.

Girl Leaps From Car
Taylor, however, denied that he followed or accompanied the girl in her flight from his car after he admittedly had made unwelcome advances to her.

A. B. Cain, sweetheart of Miss New, was released from custody late yesterday as police, after the discovery of the body and the footprints, concentrated their efforts on unearthing evidence against Taylor.

A knife found on Cain was turned over to city laboratories for examination because it bore a stain that resembled blood. Dr. George A. Denison reported to police today, however, that the stain was not caused by human blood.

Two hundred persons, filling the last two coaches on the Southern railway train leaving here at 11:40 a.m., comprised the funeral party for the dead co-ed. Services were scheduled at Heflin, former home of the New family, at 2:30 p.m.

On the train were Miss New's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lon New. The mother was in tears. Seated near them was Cain.

Brown's funeral home directors decided to send the body to Heflin by hearses.

Tears Threaten
Taylor, tall and slim but well-knit, appeared to be on the verge of tears as he reiterated his denials of guilt in his jail cell today. He admitted drinking "the greater part of a pint" between 2 p.m. Monday and the time he met Miss New about 10 p.m.

"I had several drinks but not enough to keep from knowing whether I killed anybody or not," Taylor said.

Taylor met Miss New when she went to a filling station in Woodlawn to see about having a flat tire repaired on the auto of Mrs. Homer Reaves, with whom she was out riding.

Taylor and Miss New took a short ride alone while the tire was being repaired by Cain, brother-in-law of Mrs. Reaves and close friend of the co-ed.

Says He Kissed Her
"I kissed her several times on that first ride and was not repulsed," Taylor related. "Then we went to Mrs. Reaves' house and invited her to go riding with us but she wouldn't. Shortly thereafter the girl and I started in the direction of Trussville.

"I drove down a side road near

of this case until they find Graham, county physician, was to ask city laboratories today to make a chemical analysis to clear up this point. The coroner said Miss New had been choked as well as stabbed. Bruises and fingernail scratches about the throat were found. Police were basing their accusation of Taylor on these points: 1. That Miss New repulsed his advances. Dr. George S. advances.

TAYLOR CRIES INNOCENCE; SAYS NEGRO KILLED CO-ED

Post Birmingham, Ala.

THE PARTING OF THE WAYS



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Taylor and Miss New took a short ride alone while the tire was being repaired by Cain, brother-in-law of Mrs. Reeves and close friend of the co-ed.

Says He Kissed Her

"I kissed her several times on last auto ride Monday night and that first ride and was not repulsed," Taylor related. "Then we went to Mrs. Reeves' house and in body was found yesterday.

Footprints leading from the road to the death scene were examined the girl and I started in the direction of Trussville.

Detective E. W. Jackson took one "I drove down a side road near

Irondale and parked near a house where some dogs were barking. We didn't want to park so near the house so I moved the car to another point and we parked and listened to the radio.

"I kissed her and tried to be more familiar, but when I tried that she jerked away and jumped out. 'I'll never go any-where with you again,' she told me.

Says Girl Disappeared

"I did not try to follow her. I turned the car around and as I drove away I say her disappear over a small hill."

Taylor then told of Miss New's mother calling him the next morning and informing of the girl's failure to reappear. He related then his two trips to the side-road with Mrs. New and Mrs. Reeves.

"I want the police to keep work-

ing on this case until they find the guilty party," Taylor said in concluding the interview.

An examination of the body by Coroner Gip M. Evans revealed two deep knife wounds in the throat. One wound penetrated to the bone at the back of the neck. The coroner said physical examination showed no evidence that the girl had been criminally assaulted but Dr. George S. advances.

Police were basing their accusation of Taylor on these points:

1. That Miss New repulsed his advances.

2. That Taylor's shoes fit the footprints.
3. That Taylor indicated to officers that the girl left his auto in a direction different from that she actually took.
4. That Taylor was the last person seen with her.

Cain Breaks Down

When reports reached police that the body had been found by a group of citizen-searchers, detectives whisked both Taylor and Cain to the scene.

The ensuing drama was charged with pathos and suspense. First Taylor was led to the spot and made to look upon the body. Visibly moved, he nevertheless denied the slaying with considerable self-control.

Cain broke down, dropping to his knees beside the body and weeping. He too denied the crime.

A warrant was to be issued against Taylor today. He was to be fingerprinted at police headquarters.

Scouting Given Credit For Discovery Of Body

Footprints That Led To Girl's Mutilated Corpse At First Ignored By Police, But Followed By Determined Band Of Volunteers

Scoutcraft was given a large share of credit today for the discovery of the body of Faye New, murdered Howard college co-ed, at the edge of a lonely cornfield near Irondale, after a 36-hour search had been conducted in that neighborhood by hundreds of people.

The tracks that led to the body were first noticed by H. Wells and R. L. Carlisle, volunteer searchers, a few hundred feet off the unpaved Ruffner Rd. where Harold Taylor had told officers the girl's tracks were freshly athlete leaped from his car Monday night.

"But I knew it wasn't so," said Wells, who is from Mississippi at visiting relatives here, "I'd been in the country too long not to know better than that."

Someone suggested that they contact George L. Simcox, scout executive, who was leading 150 scouts in the hunt for the missing girl.

Mr. Simcox viewed the footprints and immediately saw their possibilities he saw that they were not freshly made and that they were those of a man and woman.

The scout leader and the two men selected three more searchers—O. J. Carlen, Ralph Harvey and Lawrence Horton—and started on the trail of the footprints.

Sometimes these footprints were distinct, sometimes they were not. Sometimes the party would not find footprints marks for yards, only to pick them up further along the path.

The path led from the Ruffner road to the Trussville highway, and it was there the party lost the tracks for a time.

The men searched along the other side of the highway and it was some time before their persistence was rewarded. But finally, swept up Mr. Fowler's office early every morning and would then peddle his peanuts, spending a great deal of his time in the vicinity of the courthouse.

The tracks gave no indication of flight, according to Mr. Simcox. Those who had made them had been walking, sometimes apparently almost side by side. They might have been pleading and arguing as they went, for often there would be a cluster of foot marks in one spot, indicating that the two had stopped to talk.

For more than a half-mile the searching party continued the relentless hunt. As they came to the edge of a withering cornfield, Carlisle pointed at a small ravine simply: "There she lays." And thus the 36-hour search reached its climax.

Negro Shot To Death In Fight Over 2 Cents

Because of an argument yesterday afternoon over the ownership of two copper pennies, Willie Bellman, negro, was dead, and L. C. McCall, negro of 426 East Jeff Davis Avenue was in the county jail facing a charge of murder. Police said the negroes argued over possession of the pennies following a game in Sernford's Alley and that McCall allegedly shot Bellman in the chest with buck-shot. McCall ran to his father in West End and the latter notified the police of the shooting.

Negro Peanut Seller Fatally Slugged; Lives Long Enough To Name Slayer

Police were on the lookout yesterday for Thornton Smith, negro, of 416 Pelham Street, who, angered because Williams, also colored, of 115 East Wash- ington Street, refused to sell him a bag of peanuts for three cents at Cramton Bowl Wednesday night, slugged and fatally wounded the aged Noah as the latter was returning home. Noah was beaten up and left for dead about a block from his house an hour or so after the resulting performance ended at the bowl. Smith, according to reports, told the peanut vender he would kill him when Noah declined to accept the three pennies for a nickel bag of his wares. Officers also said that Smith accused Noah during the argument over the peanuts of having him arrested on a charge of stealing chickens.

His skull crushed and jawbone broken, Noah lay on the sidewalk unconscious for several minutes, but recovered sufficiently to get to his house later that night and report the attack. He told members of his family he recognized Smith as the assailant. Noah's condition became critical a few hours later and he was carried to a hospital where he died Thursday night. Smith before officers that he did not know his assailant, but detectives later reported that he gave them his name.

For the last 41 years, Noah Williams had been on the payroll of Ed C. Fowler, president of the Poor Man's Bank on Commerce Street. The old negro was some time before their persistence was rewarded. But finally, swept up Mr. Fowler's office early every morning and would then peddle his peanuts, spending a great deal of his time in the vicinity of the courthouse.

Mr. Fowler last night paid a tribute to Noah and also recalled an instance 40 years ago when Lorenzo Woodruff, member of the firm of White, Woodruff and Fowler, fired the negro at noon one Saturday. "Mr. Woodruff left that night for New York and I rehired Noah before my business partner had hardly gotten out of town," said Mr. Fowler.

Upon his return home, Mr. Woodruff told his business associates that the firing of Noah had made the trip miserable for him. Mr. Woodruff, father of Frank and Joel Woodruff, never again thought of dispensing with the services of Noah Williams.

"I always trusted Noah and he never disappointed me. He carried my keys for years and was a humble, honest servant," said Mr. Fowler.

The grudge which Smith is said to

have carried against Williams began two years ago when Smith was arrested for the theft of chickens from Noah's yard. Ed Reeder, elderly negro janitor at St. Andrews Catholic Church for more than 20 years, was slugged by two unidentified negroes on Mobile Street near Mildred intersection last night. Reeder was treated at police headquarters for several deep gashes on his head. Officers were assigned to investigate.

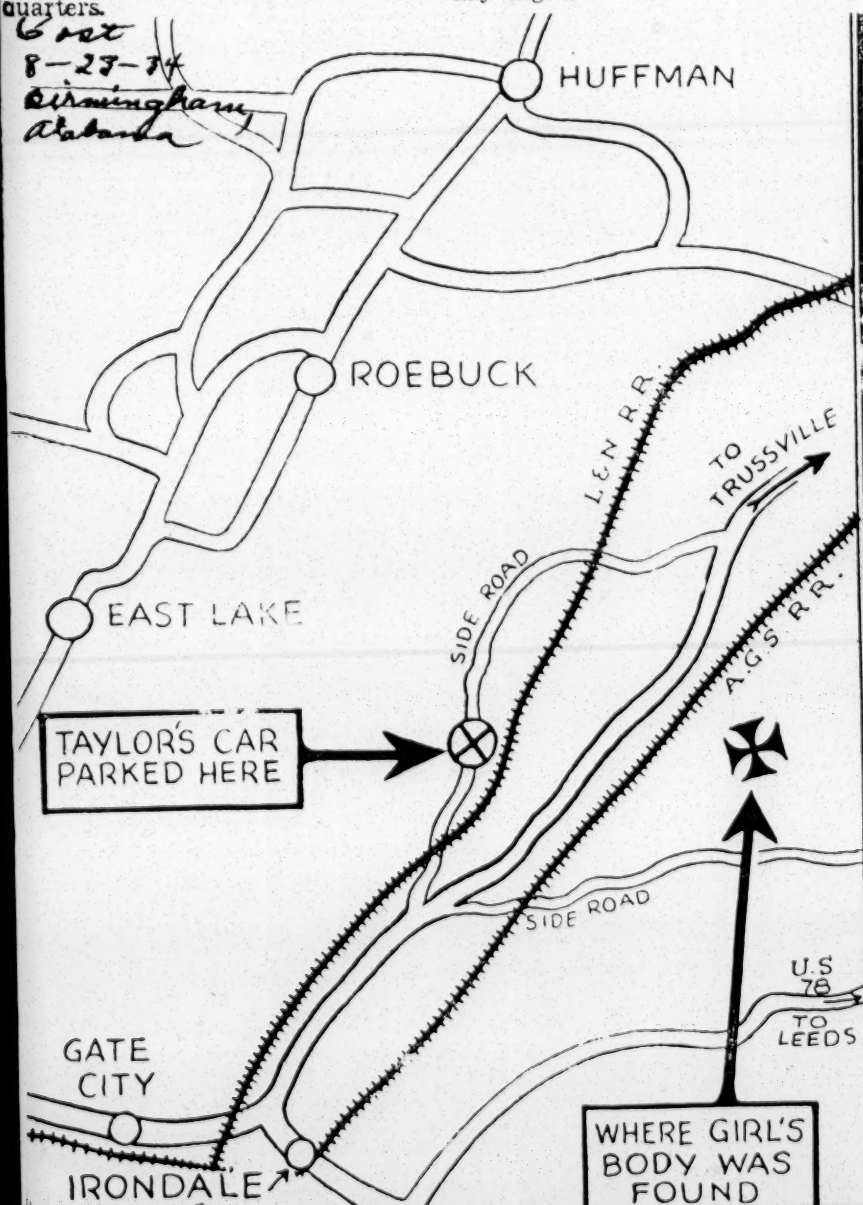
24-Year-Old Negro Is Held On Murder Count

Tigger Scott, 24-year-old negro, was being held by police yesterday on a charge of murder. Scott was alleged to have shot and killed Frank Streety, also a negro, during an argument in the Bellaire section Saturday night. Streety died within a few minutes after the shooting. Officers were also seeking the negro man who Saturday night walked into Rufus Davis's home at Eugene and Smythe Streets and shot the latter, a negro, through the abdomen. Davis told officers that he did not know his assailant, but detectives later reported that he gave them his name.

Two White Men Are Held In New Castle Slaying

Two white men and a negro were being held here today in connection with the slaying of Kelley Hill negro, near Newcastle. They are Clyde Posey, 26, and Earl Fuller, 22, and Johnnie Carlton, 37, negro. The men were charged with murder and held without bond.

Hill was found shot to death near the Republic highway last Wednesday, after he had been abducted from his home by a white man posing as an officer. Coroner Gip Evans, who returned a verdict of unlawful homicide, expressed the opinion that the slaying resulted from a bootleggers' quarrel.



A map of the scene of the slaying of Faye New shows the distance traversed by the Howard co-ed before she was cut down by a killer's knife. The entire area shown in the map was searched by the hundreds of officers, citizens and Boy Scouts, but it took 36 hours to find the spot where the body lay.

Killings-1934

HIGH COURT ASKED TO REVIEW CASE; EXECUTION IS STAYED

Willie Peterson, who was convicted several months ago for the murder of Miss Augusta Williams, August 4th, 1931, has appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States and that high body has been asked to review the evidence and grant Peterson a new trial.

The date for the execution of Willie Peterson, at which time he was to die in the electric chair at Kilby Prison, Alabama, was set for January 12th, but the Supreme Court of Alabama received notice by wire from the Supreme Court of the United States, that the appeal had reached the clerk's office, and on this information the execution was stayed by the Supreme Court of Alabama until February 16th.

During the past week the case of Willie Peterson has received unusual publicity from the white press. White men of high standing, including the Sheriff of Jefferson County, have openly expressed the belief that Peterson is not the man who committed the crime for which he was convicted. It will be recalled that during the month of September, 1931, Peterson was arrested and placed in the county jail after being identified by Miss Nell Williams, who was riding along the streets of Birmingham in an automobile with a friend. From the day of his arrest until the present Peterson has steadfastly and determinedly protested his innocence, and denies any knowledge of the crime for which he has been found guilty.

The attack, the circumstances, and the charges made have been variously stated many times through this publication and otherwise. The crime is regarded as one of the most gruesome and outrageous of any yet recorded in this section. It is charged that two young women were outraged, criminally assaulted, shot and killed. Miss Nell Williams points out Peterson as the guilty party.

The first effort to convict Willie Peterson resulted in a mistrial. The jury deliberated forty-four hours and reported to the court that they could not agree as to the guilty party.

Case Goes to Supreme Court

In the appeal to the Supreme Court of Alabama the case was handled by Attorneys John W. Altman and Walter S. Smith. The Supreme Court refused to disturb the verdict of the lower Court and set the date of execution for January 12th, 1934. This decision of the Supreme Court, as well as the verdict of the lower Court caused much public comment with the expression of great surprise over the adverse verdict. Sentiment among both races is wide and general as to Peterson's innocence. There is a determined effort on the part of outstanding people of both races to see to it that the defendant has a fair and impartial trial which many believe he has not had, and that he is the victim of misidentification.

Money Needed

To handle a case of this kind officially through the Supreme Court of Alabama, and then to the Supreme Court of the United States requires much time, thought, attention and money. Willie Peterson is a pauper. He is without funds, and without friends who have money. His defense money and legal protection must necessarily come from people interested in humanity, from people who believe that justice should always triumph. Peterson carries an unusual clean record. Through two trials his character was not touched except for charges brought against him by Miss Nell Williams. There is nothing found against his character. He is a consistent member and a Deacon of a Baptist Church. He was 38 years old when arrested and had never before been charged with crime, never faced a judge, and was regarded as a conservative, hard-working and humble Negro. Peterson needs money NOW, and all the friends he can get.

Those who are interested in the welfare of humanity as well as those who wish to preserve the laws and statutes of our country must be interested in giving everyone a fair and impartial trial. It cannot be done without money. Those desiring to help and will help should make their donation to Dr. Chas. A. J. McPherson,

1630 4th Ave., North, Birmingham, Ala.

Attorney's fees must be paid, documents to various courts must be cared for, the transcripts to the Supreme Court of Alabama are still unpaid, and other expenses incidental to the defense are unpaid. Peterson is in the death cell at Kilby Prison, out of touch, of course, with the public. He has told his story on the witness stand, he told it to his attorneys, he has stated it to friends and those he has talked to, as a general proposition, have been favorably impressed with the truthfulness of his statement.

Peterson Shot in Jail

Those who have been able to interview Willie Peterson must have gotten the impression that his case is one that carries unusual aspects and features of much sacrifice and endurance. Shortly after he was arrested he was placed in Kilby Prison and following that he was brought to Birmingham for questioning. While in the Jefferson County jail in the custody of officers and in the presence of the Williams family and members of the Woods family he vigorously denied any knowledge of the assault and murder of Miss Augusta Williams and Miss Jennie Wood. With his hand raised declaring his innocence he was shot three times by Dent Williams, the brother of Miss Augusta Williams. He was shot in the chest, and while the blood was oozing from his body, and the only black face to be seen he proclaimed in loud voice, "you all are killing an innocent man."

Peterson carries an unusual clean record. Through two trials his character was not touched except for charges brought against him by Miss Nell Williams. There is nothing found against his character. He is a consistent member and a Deacon of a Baptist Church. He was 38 years old when arrested and had never before been charged with crime, never faced a judge, and was regarded as a conservative, hard-working and humble Negro. Peterson needs money NOW, and all the friends he can get. Those who are interested in the welfare of humanity as well as those who wish to preserve the laws and statutes of our country must be interested in giving everyone a fair and impartial trial. It cannot be done without money. Those desiring to help and will help should make their donation to Dr. Chas. A. J. McPherson,

Peterson has consistently denied any knowledge of this crime, and he does it without waiver, without the slightest emotion. Because he is believed to be innocent there are those in both races, White and Black, who express interest in the fact that he should have a fair and impartial trial, which many believe he has not been given. What Peterson needs now is money for his defense. It is hoped that those who believe in his innocence will come forward and make a donation of some amount.

Walker County Negro Sentenced To Death

JASPER, ALA., Jan. 17.—(P)—William Winston, 27-year-old negro, today was under sentence of death following conviction on charges of murdering Travis Benton, 37, and Buck Guthrie, 19, last Nov. 25.

State witnesses testified the negro shot the men after Benton had accused him of making insulting remarks to his sister. The jury deliberated one hour and five minutes.

3 Negroes Plead For Their Lives

Following hearings held yesterday afternoon in the office of Secretary of State Pete B. Jarman, Jr., at the capitol, Gov. Miller and members of the State Pardon Board, took under advisement petitions for executive clemency of Solomon Roper, Ernest Waller and Bennie Foster, Dallas County negroes, all under sentence to be executed at Kilby Prison on Feb. 9, for first degree murder.

Roper, who pleaded guilty of murdering his employer, Page Brazier, with an axe, and then robbing him of his money and shoes, declared he struck Brazier with the axe in self-defense as the latter was advancing upon him with an uplifted sledge hammer. He denied robbing the body of money or shoes and insisted the shoes he had on when arrested were not Brazier's.

Waller, convicted of killing Daisy Montgomery on a public street in the town of Orrville, declared he was jealous of the woman and that he killed her in a jealous rage. Foster, who was found guilty of murdering Clarence McCain, filling-station operator, precipitated a dramatic scene when his case was called, by dropping to his knees on the floor and with upraised right hand and tears trickling down his face, earnestly protesting his innocence of the crime of which he was convicted, making a sweeping denial of all charges.

Circuit Judge John Miller who presided at the trials, and Circuit Solicitor Joseph H. James, have declined to recommend commutation of sentence in either of the three cases.

Plea For Mobile Negroes Heard

Pleas for commutation of sentence to life imprisonment, of John Thompson and Hodie alias Hardy White, Mobile County negroes, condemned to be electrocuted at Kilby Prison on Feb. 9 for first degree murder, were taken under consideration yesterday afternoon following

hearings at the Capitol before Gov. Miller and members of the State Board of Pardons.

Thompson was jointly indicted, convicted and sentenced, with another negro, Louis Cunningham, for the killing of Henry Bloom, Mobile merchant. Cunningham who was ill when he was committed to Kilby, died in the hospital there last week.

White was found guilty of the murder of Luther Williams, Mobile streetcar conductor.

The granting of clemency of either case was vigorously opposed by Solicitor Bart B. Chamberlain of the Mobile Circuit Court, and Chief of Police Warren Burch of Mobile. Confessions made by both negroes to the respective crimes of which they were found guilty were introduced in evidence by the Solicitor.

Before the Governor and Pardon Board however, Thompson denied his guilt, claiming an alibi and alleging he was forced to make the confession.

White, who at his trial entered a plea of insanity, mumbled to himself throughout the hearing yesterday afternoon, making no intelligible reply when the Governor asked him if he had anything to say. Rolling his eyes at intervals, the negro repeated over and over, as if to himself: "They're gone. They're gone."

Solicitor Chamberlain maintained White were feigning insanity; that he was sane enough when first committed to the Mobile jail, and that while he was in jail he discussed with other prisoners the best method of "playing crazy" and was advised the usual way was to pretend insanity on the subject of religion.

POLICE CONTINUE HUNT FOR NEGRO ASSAILANT

Woman Victim Of Stray Bullets In Serious Condition

Detectives today continued their search for the Negro who fatally wounded Ernest Rochell and seriously wounded Mrs. R. D. Hill, Northside residents, with stray bullets Thanksgiving Day. The Negro, drunk, was said to be firing at another Negro when the wounds were inflicted.

Mrs. Hill, who lives at 1224 29th st. n, is in a serious condition at South Highlands Infirmary. Funeral services for Mr. Rochell were to be held at 2:30 p.m. from Luquire's chapel, with burial to follow in Elmwood Cemetery.

High Court Refuses To Intervene In Behalf Of Negro Slayer Of Girl

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—(P)—The Supreme Court today declined to review the death sentence imposed on Willie Peterson, Birmingham, Ala., negro, for the murder of Miss Augusta Williams, prominent society girl.

A stay of execution had been granted pending a decision by the Court whether to take any action. The negro contended his trial had been unfair and he had been denied constitutional rights.

A few orders having no general interest were issued today and the Court recessed until Feb. 5.

At that time it is expected to have ready for delivery a decision in the New York milk case, involving the right of State and Federal Governments to fix minimum prices of milk.

Governor Sets Hearing Date For Negro Killer

Notified yesterday that the Supreme Court of the United States had denied application for review of the case of Willie Peterson, Jefferson County negro convicted of the murder of Miss Augusta Williams, prominent Birmingham society girl, and condemned to die in the electric chair at Kilby Prison on Feb. 16, Gov. Miller yesterday set for 10 a.m. Tuesday morning, Feb. 6, hearing of Peterson's petition for commutation of sentence to life imprisonment. The hearing will be held at the Capitol before the Governor and members of the State Board of Pardons.

Peterson, execution of whose sentence was recently suspended by the Alabama Supreme Court until Feb. 16, so as to afford the nation's highest tribunal in Washington time to act on the petition for review is ill and has been removed to Kilby Prison hospital for treatment on orders of Dr. G. M. Taylor, physician-surgeon of State Prisons. In the opinion of Dr. Taylor the negro is incurable and will never be any better physically than he is now. Peterson, it is understood, is suffering from tuberculosis.

The execution was stayed to permit the high court to decide whether it could review the case. Peterson contended the trial was so unfair and partial as to deprive him of constitutional rights. His counsel insisted the prosecuting officer and the trial court were unfair and that prejudice, bias, abuse, inexcusable use of inadmissible evidence and inexcusable misconduct prevailed during the trial. He also declared he had been denied certain rights of counsel during the proceedings against him.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Jan. 22.—(P)—Willie Peterson, negro under sentence to die for the slaying of Miss Augusta Williams, was convicted here last year of the slaying, after his first trial had resulted in a hung jury.

The negro was indicted for the slaying of Miss Williams and Miss Jennie Wood and the wounding of Miss Nell Williams, on Shades Mountain, on Aug. 4, 1931.

The three girls, Miss Nell Williams said, were forced to drive to a lonely road by the negro where he held them captive and lectured on radicalism for more than four hours.

Miss Nell Williams, after being shot, managed to escape and give an alarm. Officers found Miss Augusta Williams dead and Miss Wood fatally wounded.

A widespread search was launched for the slayer and more than a score of sus-

ing, Gov. Miller declared, would be at Hillman Hospital in Birmingham Feb. 6. The Alabama Supreme Court when Peterson was operated upon set Feb. 16 as the new date for the after being shot by Dent Williams, execution.

The Birmingham Negro was confined in jail at Birmingham. The physician said Peterson was Jan. 12, but the Alabama Supreme Court granted a stay of execution. John T. Moseley, in charge, that he when the case was taken before the was dying, and asked if he desired to confess the slaying before he died.

Gov. Miller said he would ask the Dr Johnson stated that Peterson Pardon Board to sit with him on the returned to Dr. Moseley and said, hearing and that both sides of the "Lord, I'm coming to You an innocent men."

Under Alabama law, the only recourse now open to Peterson is a plea and urging clemency for Peterson for executive clemency. The Pardon Board may recommend clemency, but the granting of such clemency is in the exclusive hands of the governor.

Peterson was convicted of the murder of Miss Augusta Williams, who was fatally wounded, along with Miss Jennie Wood, in an attack late on the afternoon of Aug. 4, 1931, in a patch of woods near Mountain Brook.

Miss Williams' sister, Miss Nell Williams, also was shot when she endeavored to escape from the negro who held the three girls captive for more than three hours, and later recognized Peterson as her sister's slayer and identified him from the witness stand.

At the time she recognized Peterson he was walking on a Southside street. Miss Williams was riding in an automobile and her escort called the Negro to the car and when Miss Williams accused him of being her sister's slayer, he was taken in hand, resulting in a mistrial.

Peterson was tried twice, the first resulting in a mistrial. Roderick Beddow, Birmingham lawyer, who prosecuted Peterson when he was convicted, Monday expressed satisfaction over the action of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Beddow said several Negroes who attended the trial of Peterson, including representatives of two Negro newspapers, complimented him on his fairness during the trial. "The only thing Peterson can do now is to beg for mercy," said Mr. Beddow.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
January 26, 1934

PETERSON PLEA MADE BY DOCTOR

Physician Tells Miller Negro Denied Killing When Near Death

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 25.—(P)—Dr. C. E. Johnson, Jr., of Birmingham Thursday had written Gov. B. M. Miller asking clemency for Willie Peterson, Birmingham Negro, sentenced to die Feb. 16, on the grounds that Peterson denied killing Miss Augusta Williams, Birmingham, when he apparently was on his deathbed.

Dr. Johnson said he was serving

and sentenced with Thompson for the same crime, died in the Kilby Prison hospital several weeks ago.

AMBUSH SLAYERS OF NEGRO MAKE ESCAPE

T. C. L's Offer Of \$500 Reward
Spurs Killer Search

No arrests had been made by officers today in the ambush slaying of Alexander Booth, 25, negro employe of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Co., Nov. 7.

Booth was shot as he walked from his logcabin home to cut weeds at Bayview coal mines, two miles away. The Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Co. has offered \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the slayer or slayers.

Negro Woman Slain On Truck Going To Church

DECATUR, ALA., Nov. 12.—(P)—Gunfire broke out aboard a truck carrying 33 negroes from Lawrence County to church services in Athens yesterday, and today a woman was dead and two men, one wounded in the leg, were in Limestone County jail.

Julie Elliott, negro woman, was struck in an exchange between two men booked by officers as Lee Brooks and Steve Key, authorities said they were told by members of the "religious pilgrimage."

Key was arrested here after bringing the woman's body to Decatur and having a leg wound dressed. Brooks was taken from the church in Athens. Brooks later was turned over to Limestone authorities.

Peterson Granted 30-Day Reprieve

A reprieve until March 30 was granted yesterday by Gov. Miller to Willie Peterson, Jefferson County negro, convicted of the murder of Miss Augusta Williams, Birmingham society girl, and who was to have been electrocuted at Kilby Prison Feb. 16. The stay of execution was granted because the Chief Executive and members of the Board of Pardons desire more time to examine into the application for clemency in the case, and consider testimony. The Governor also has postponed hearing of Peterson's petition for commutation of sentence, from Feb. 6 to March 6.

At the request of Secretary of State Jarman, member of the Pardon Board, for more time to investigate the testimony in the case of Fred Kinney, Perry County negro, convicted of killing Jim Phillips, a white man, and sentenced to death, Gov. Miller by formal order suspended execution of the death sentence in the case which was to have been carried out on Feb. 9, until March 9.

The Governor, however, denied the petition for commutation of John Thompson, negro, of Mobile, convicted of murdering Henry Bloom, a storekeeper, and sentenced to die in the electric chair on Feb. 9. At the request of defense counsel, an examination was made of Thompson to determine his mental status, and the examining psychiatrist later reported the negro was feigning insanity. The trial judge, solicitor, and members of the Board of Pardons, unanimously recommended that the death sentence be carried out. Louis Cunningham, another negro, who was indicted, tried, convicted

WILLIE PETERSON IS DENIED REVIEW BY HIGHEST COURT

Only Hope Now Of Birmingham Negro Is Clemency Order

From Gov. Miller
1-23-34

WASHINGTON.—(P)—Willie Peterson, Birmingham, Ala., Negro, under sentence of death for the murder of Miss Augusta Williams, prominent resident of that city, was denied a review Monday by the Supreme Court.

The execution was stayed to permit the high court to decide whether it could review the case.

Peterson contended the trial was so unfair and partial as to deprive him of constitutional rights.

His counsel insisted the prosecuting officer and the trial court were unfair and that prejudice, bias, abuse, inexcusable use of inadmissible evidence and inexcusable misconduct prevailed during the trial.

He also declared he had been denied certain rights of counsel during the proceedings against him.

Governor Says He Will Hold Hearing

Gov. Miller, Monday declared he would conduct a clemency hearing for Willie Peterson in his office in Montgomery. The date of the hear-

Killings-1934

Alabama

6 Still At Large In Atmore Break

Of the 28 convicts who escaped from the Atmore Prison Farm last Friday, after overpowering their guards, only six, one negro and five white men, were still at large last night. The other 22 had been recaptured and returned to their cells as the result of one of the most systematic and determined man-hunts in the history of the Convict Department.

There has been no slackening in efforts to locate the six prisoners who so far have eluded the search parties and posses who have relentlessly trailed them. Authorities are especially anxious to apprehend Friend Simmons, Marengo County negro, alleged slayer of Grover Kirby, Escambia County farmer, who was shot and killed when he attempted early Friday morning, to halt the flight of Simmons and two other negro convict companions, shortly after their escape.

The two other negroes were caught, and one of them made a statement to the effect that Simmons fired the fatal shot. Simmons when last heard from was still armed with the pistol and shotgun taken from one of the prison guards when the break for liberty was made.

The total number of prisoners recaptured was increased to 22, when searching parties, yesterday, took into custody James Winters of Tuscaloosa County, Robert Lee Fuell of Limestone, and Dewey Kirby of Jackson, all white men.

GOVERNOR IS ASKED TO SAVE PETERSON

Sheriff Hawkins Urges That
Death Sentence Be
Commuted

After he had delivered into the custody of authorities at Kilby Prison yesterday afternoon, Willie Peterson, Jefferson County negro, under sentence of death for the murder of Miss Augusta Williams, Birmingham society girl, Sheriff James F. Hawkins, of Jefferson, filed in the office of Gov. Miller a recommendation for commutation of Peterson's sentence to life imprisonment.

Sheriff Hawkins declared in his recommendation he did not believe Peterson was the negro who committed the crime, and that this belief was concurred in by former Chief of Police Fred McDuff, of Birmingham. Miss Augusta Williams and Miss Jennie Wood were murdered, and Miss Nell Williams was shot and dangerously wounded by a negro who forced

them to drive their automobile to an isolated spot on Shade's Mountain near Birmingham, where he held them captive four hours. Miss Nell Williams is sister of the late Miss Augusta Williams.

Following his conviction, Peterson's case was appealed to the Supreme Court of Alabama, which upheld the trial court's judgment. Later the high court granted a stay of execution until Jan. 12, so that petition for review could be filed with the U. S. Supreme Court by counsel for the negro. That tribunal is expected to act on the petition Jan. 10. If it is denied, Peterson will be executed in the electric chair at Kilby Prison early in the morning of Jan. 12, unless commutation should be granted by Gov. Miller. The Chief Executive will await the U. S. Supreme Court's decision next Wednesday, before announcing a hearing before himself and members of the State Board of Pardons and application for commutation, in the event the petition for review is denied.

Though the Convict Department has concentrated upon the recapture of the "escapes" and an investigation of break for liberty of the 28 last Friday has not yet been begun, it is generally understood that those participating in it formed a group of inmates who became disgruntled when they did not receive Christmas paroles.

A total of 360 prisoners were given such paroles of brief duration by Gov. Miller as a reward for extended records of good conduct. The beneficiaries of this act of clemency began returning to prisons and prison camps Sunday, and continued to arrive throughout yesterday. Christmas paroles expired at midnight last night. It was confidently expected that all who received them would re-turn within the time limit. A checkup today will reveal whether any have broken faith with the Governor. If they have they will immediately be listed as escaped convicts and fugitives from justice.

After officially directing the Atmore Prison, throughout Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday, the search for the escapes, H. H. Stewart, assistant to the director of the State Board of Administration, returned to Montgomery yesterday.

According to Mr. Stewart, in addition to Simmons, alleged slayer of Mr. Kirby, eight white convicts are also still being sought, namely: S. C. Cameron, of Barbour County; James Winters, of Tuscaloosa; Audrey Pate, of Montgomery; Robert Lee Fuell, of Limestone; Burre Norwood, of Montgomery; Dewey Kirby of Jackson; Ernest Bowen, of Montgomery, and J. D. Armstrong, of Etowah.

Washington said, it was made known, that Simmons shot Mr. Kirby with the shotgun which, with a pistol, was taken from one of the guards in charge of the field squad with which they had been working. After Mr. Kirby fell to the ground, according to Washington's statement, Louis Brown ran to the wounded man, tore his shotgun from his hands and kicked him as he lay dying.

Brown has also been recaptured, but up to last night had refused to talk. Simmons, armed with the gun with which he is said to have slain the farmer, was still at large.

Washington declared, it was said, that soon after leaving the scene of the fatal shooting, Brown turned Mr. Kirby's gun over to him, Washington, complaining it was too heavy for him to carry and that soon after that he separated

is not the Negro who committed the crime.

"When I attempt to analyze and assign reasons for my belief there is very little to base it on," he says, "yet I have that feeling in my heart that convinces me it is my duty to appear before you and make a full and frank statement."

Sheriff Hawkins is not alone in his belief that Peterson is innocent of this crime. His belief is shared, he informs Gov. Miller, by former Chief of Police Fred H. McDuff, "who is even more familiar with the facts than I am." He suggests that the governor request Chief McDuff to give him his views.

With a very deep earnestness, and fine courage, Sheriff Hawkins says: "The young women who suffered outrages at the hands of some Negro are members of our best families and my closest friends. It is embarrassing to me to do or say anything that would displease them, but I am not willing to go through life feeling that my silence might have allowed an innocent person, although a Negro, to die."

This places a hard problem before Gov. Miller. Peterson was identified by Miss Nell Williams, who was positive in her identification of him. In all the circumstances of the case, Gov. Miller cannot fail to be impressed by that fact. Yet no more can he fail to take into consideration the fact that the two men who, as heads of the law enforcement departments of Birmingham and Jefferson County, were in charge of the investigation of the crime, are deeply convinced that it is a case of mistaken identity.

Sheriff Hawkins' letter deserves Gov. Miller's earnest attention. Would it not be well for the governor to conduct a thorough investigation of his own in the case before making a decision?

Peterson's Death Stay Is Extended

Suspension of execution of the death sentence of Willie Peterson, Jefferson County negro, was extended in an order issued yesterday by the Alabama Supreme Court to Feb. 16, to provide further time for action by the Supreme Court of the United States on a pending certiorari application filed with that tribunal by counsel for the negro, seeking a review of the case by the nation's highest court.

Peterson was convicted and sentenced to death for the murder of Miss Augusta Williams, prominent Birmingham society girl, and was charged in addition with killing Miss Jennie Wood and shooting and dangerously wounding Miss Nell Williams, sister of Miss Augusta Williams. He appealed and the Supreme

On The Peterson Case

In a letter to Gov. Miller, Sheriff Hawkins says he does not believe that Willie Peterson, the Negro who was convicted of the murder of Miss Augusta Williams, is guilty of the crime for which he is scheduled to be executed on Jan. 12. As sheriff of Jefferson County, Mr. Hawkins feels it is his duty, he tells the governor, to "make a full and frank statement of all matters pertaining to this case, which have come under my observation." His conscience will not permit him to keep silent about his conviction that Peterson

Court of Alabama affirmed the judgment. His attorneys then began action to take the case before the U. S. Supreme Court.

When this proceeding was initiated, execution of the death sentence was suspended by the Alabama high court until Jan. 12, the suspension being extended yesterday to the date stated. Prior to issuance of the order of extension Peterson was to have been electrocuted early this morning.

PETERSON'S DEATH OFF INDEFINITELY

Advertisement
If U. S. Supreme Court Does
Not Act, Governor Will
Hear Mercy Plea

1-10-34
Willie Peterson, Jefferson County negro, convicted of the murder of Miss Augusta Williams, Birmingham society girl, and sentenced to death, will not be executed at Kilby Prison Friday morning, the date last set for his electrocution. That became certain yesterday, it was learned, in view of developments in connection with efforts by the negro's counsel to have the case reviewed by the Supreme Court of the United States.

Advertisement
Yesterday morning, the Supreme Court of Alabama, which has affirmed the judgment of conviction and death sentence of Peterson, was advised by wire, by the clerk of the U. S. Supreme Court, in Washington, D. C., that application had been formally filed with that tribunal by counsel, for a writ of certiorari on the negro's behalf. The Alabama Supreme Court, when notice had been given an effort would be made to have the Nation's highest court of law review the case of Peterson, weeks ago ordered execution of the death sentence suspended pending presentation of the proceeding, until Jan. 12.

The matter will be taken up again by the Alabama Supreme Court tomorrow. If there is no action by the U. S. Supreme Court before the noon hour, the State Supreme Court, it was learned, will order a further suspension of execution of Peterson pending such action. If the court in Washington takes jurisdiction of the case, then execution of the death sentence will be suspended until such time as that tribunal disposes of it. Should the Federal Court decline to take jurisdiction, however, and the present execution date of Jan. 12 continue to stand, then Gov. Miller will grant Peterson a reprieve, it was learned, so as to give ample time for hearing of application for commutation of sentence to life imprisonment.

In addition to being convicted of the murder of Miss Augusta Williams, Peterson was also charged with killing Miss Jennie Wood, and shooting and seriously wounding Miss Nell Williams, sister of Miss Augusta Williams, all three of whom were forced to drive the automobile in which they were riding to a lone-

ly section of Shades Mountain, near Birmingham, where they were held captive for hours. Peterson was arrested when he was pointed out on the street in Birmingham by Miss Nell Williams as the murderer.

Sheriff James F. Hawkins, of Jefferson County, has recommended commutation of sentence in the case, on the ground that he does not believe Peterson is the negro who committed the crime. Former Chief of Police Fred McDuff, of Birmingham, concurs in that belief, the sheriff said. Others have recommended commutation, but still others, however, have written letters to the Governor and the Pardon Board vigorously opposing clemency.

Yesterday Gov. Miller received the following telegram from Charles H. Houston, local counsel in Washington, for the condemned negro: "Peterson execution without at least clemency hearing after public statement of law enforcement officer close to facts and absolutely impartial together with wide newspaper publicity would be blot on Alabama justice. Earnestly solicit and entreat clemency hearing be granted. Peterson in penitentiary and no chance of escape. On other hand execution would remove all chance to correct error later. Not attempt to impugn Miss Williams's good faith but gravest doubt about Peterson's identity. Please grant clemency hearing."

The Governor wired a reply to the effect he and the Board of Pardons, when requested, always grant a clemency hearing after final adjudication by the courts.

PETERSON VERDICT EXPECTED TODAY

Letters Pour Into Governor's
Office Asking Clemency,
Demanding Death

Advertisement
In a series of letters received yesterday at the office of Gov. Miller, clemency was both urged and opposed for Willie Peterson, Jefferson County negro, under sentence of death, for the murder of Miss Augusta Williams, prominent Birmingham society girl.

Peterson was also charged with the murder of Miss Jennie Wood, and with the shooting and dangerously wounding Miss Nell Williams, sister of Miss Augusta Williams, after forcing the three young women to drive the automobile in which they were riding to an isolated spot on Shade's Mountain, near Birmingham, where he held them captive for four hours.

He was arrested when he was pointed out on a Birmingham street by Miss Nell Williams, as the negro who had shot and dangerously wounded her, after killing her sister and Miss Wood. His trial, conviction and sentencing to death followed. On appeal the judgment was affirmed by the Alabama Supreme Court. Application for review of the

case was thereafter made to the Supreme Court of the United States, and the State Supreme Court suspended execution of the death sentence until Jan. 12, so as to give ample time for action on the application. That action is expected to be announced some time today.

In the event, it is unfavorable, Gov. Miller will arrange for a hearing of Peterson's plea for commutation of sentence to life imprisonment, before himself and members of the State Board of Pardons. Thereafter, unless the Governor should see fit to act in Peterson's behalf, the condemned negro will be electrocuted at Kilby Prison early Friday morning.

Excerpts from letters received by the Chief Executive yesterday regarding clemency for Peterson, follow:

Henry Upson Sims, Birmingham: "The danger in much current criticism with the administration of justice in Alabama today is that it is based on efforts of critics to supplant the jury in determining the facts."

J. Morgan, Leeds: "I feel in my soul that he is not the guilty party."

Louie Reese, Birmingham: "In the name of justice and to minimize the lynching spirit, please allow the law as meted out to prevail."

E. H. Moore, Jasper: "If he is innocent, perhaps the evidence will yet come to light. If guilty, his life imprisonment will protect society from him."

W. P. Byrd, Birmingham: "I feel and believe that you will recognize as did the Supreme Court, the justice to mankind, to society, to law and to the State."

John L. Sims, Birmingham: "I feel certain that justice requires that the man now condemned to die should be given the benefit of the doubt which so widely prevails as to his guilt, and that his sentence of death should be at least commuted to life imprisonment."

GOV. MILLER PROMISES STAY

Advertisement
Sheriff Appeals to Gov.;
Believes Peterson
is Innocent

1-10-34
GOVERNMENT WILL ACT
Mobile, Ala.
Montgomery, Ala.—Special —
Willie Peterson will not die Friday, January 12 as scheduled, according to announcements Monday from the office of Governor

Advertisement
B. M. Miller, who states that he or the Alabama Supreme court would grant an extension of the execution. The government has promised a thorough investigation of facts in the case. A petition is now before the United States Supreme Court for a review of the case.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. JAN. 8.
A ray of hope peeped through a sky of cloudy gray for Willie Peterson, doomed to die in the electric chair Friday, January 12, when an appeal for clemency was made to the Governor of the State of Alabama by Sheriff James Hawkins of Jefferson county.

Action of the Gov. was scheduled to take place during the day Monday as to whether the clemency will be granted or denied, on the Sheriff's plea that he has a "feeling" that the Negro is innocent of the slaying of two popular white Birmingham society girls on Red Mountain in 1931.

In his letter to the Governor, Sheriff Hawkins stated that Police Chief Fred McDuff of Birmingham was of the same opinion and that the police chief had sufficient information that would show that Peterson was not the man who committed the crime. "I am not willing to go through life feeling that my silence might have allowed an innocent person, although a Negro, to die," the sheriff said in his letter.

The description offered by the young woman, Miss Nell Williams, a third party in the car when the murders were committed, to police the night of the crime, differed altogether to the features of Peterson. This was testified to by the officers who first saw Miss Williams and by Chief McDuff who had the placards printed with a description of the man wanted.

Advertisement
The first trial was declared a mistrial after several days of deliberation by the jury. In the second trial to make sure of conviction a new charge of rape was introduced by the state. This charge was left out in the first trial.

Peterson was shot while in the Jefferson county jail by Dent Williams, brother of the slain girl. He was able to survive and a new trial was ordered and he was convicted and sentenced to death in the electric chair.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People became interested in the case and employed Attorney John Altman to carry the case to the Supreme Court, but very little was done to

save the doomed man.
Roderick Beddow was employed in the second trial as a special prosecutor and in press-statements he concludes that no one can doubt the guilt of Peterson "when he was identified under such circumstances as closes the door of doubt to any one familiar with the facts or details connected with this shocking and depraved offense." He plans to fight any efforts for the clemency move along with families of both victims, the Woods and Williams.

There is a division of opinion relative to the case and widespread discussion has been caused by the Sheriff's exposure of the frame-up. The best circles have been shocked and the Williams family is indignant. The better element of whites, that is to say, the ones who have any idea of justice, agree with Sheriff Hawkins in his move.

The latest to join him was Attorney Henry Upton Sims, Birmingham attorney, who also wrote a letter to the Governor asking for clemency for Peterson. The lawyer states, "The danger in much current criticism with the administration of justice in Alabama today is that it is based on efforts of the critics to supplant the jury in determining facts."

Two Negroes Held On Death Charges

Advertisement
Week end shooting and cutting affairs landed two negroes in the County Jail. Grover Pettus is held on a charge of murder in connection with killing Stephen Walter, another negro, at Sprague Junction late Sunday. Fred Scott was arrested yesterday morning on a warrant charging assault to murder after he is alleged to have stabbed Will Jordan, also a negro, during a brawl in Boguemonne early Monday morning.

According to Deputies Masingill and Moseley, who arrested Pettus, the shooting occurred on the Lee Calloway place about 5:30 p.m. Sunday. Walter is said to have died almost instantly after Pettus had fired a bullet into his body. Pettus was picked up about one and a half miles from the scene of the trouble.

Scott was arrested by Roy Stearns and Masingill at Perry's Mill a few hours after the stabbing. Jordan, who has been employed by the Young Antique Shop for a number of years, was in a critical condition last night at a local hospital.

Killings-1934

Alabama.

M'DUFF HAS ABOUT FACED IN STAND ON CASE, IMPLICATION

Former Police Chief Denies
Claim Of Altman He
Changed View
2-6-34
CLEMENCY HEARING OF
NEGRO IS EXTENDED
Birmingham, Ala.
Miller Sets Execution Date
Of Alleged Slayer At
March 30

Simultaneous with announcement from Montgomery Monday morning that Gov. Miller had extended the date of execution for Willie Peterson, Jefferson County Negro, convicted of slaying a Birmingham society girl from Feb. 16 to March 30, and reset the date of the clemency hearing from Feb. 6 to March 6, came the implication by John W. Altman, Birmingham attorney, that former Police Chief Fred McDuff, had, in effect, "about faced," in his original stand on the Negro's guilt, and McDuff's retort that any such suggestion "is untrue."

Making public a copy of a letter to McDuff under date of Feb. 4 in which he declared the former police chief visited his apartment "this week," Altman asks McDuff to disclose who wrote the letter for him appearing in a Birmingham newspaper on Feb. 3, and fires a series of questions at the former law enforcement official with reference to a conversation alleged to have taken place at the Altman apartment last Wednesday.

McDuff, who a few days ago wrote the governor's recording secretary that a young woman of sterling reputation had identified Peterson as the slayer, and that no new evidence had been uncovered to indicate the Negro's innocence, was quoted by Sheriff Hawkins when he (Hawkins) interceded in behalf of the Negro, as being of the opinion Peterson was not the guilty man.

"Where did you get the idea from?" Altman's letter to McDuff inquired "and was it the case of your statement that you were expressing when you

said 'It would be presumptuous of your part to question the wisdom of the verdict and judgment when you know of no new evidence that would warrant me doing so?'"

"Was this competent evidence expression of words from your dictation or was it the product of some other mind, some lawyer, and if so, whom?"

Taking the matter to task while expressing the utmost confidence "in your outstanding traits, namely, truthfulness and courage at all times," Mr. Altman asks, among other questions, if McDuff did not tell him on the occasion in question:

(a) That it was your opinion that Peterson was not the guilty man?

(b) As a matter of fact did you not agree with me that you go to Montgomery next Tuesday morning and after I suggested going in my car, which Mr. Proctor would drive so that it would not be any expense to you, did we not arrange a time that you should leave, same being 6:30 a.m. Tuesday and did you not state that you would there freely state the different matters which have come to your attention in the Peterson proposition?

(c) That you knew of the suspect who was said by the mayor of Lincoln to have gone through Lincoln the next day after the crimes were committed and that it was stated that the Negro filled the description as given out with reference to the Negro who committed the crimes in that he was a big black Negro, that he wore pin striped overalls and that his shoes were out at the toes so that you knew that Bill Burge and Sam Arnett went to Lincoln and trailed the Negro over into somewhere in Georgia and there lost his track?

(d) That at the time Dent Williams shot Peterson that you were present and that Assistant Solicitor Jim Long said to the Negro after he had been shot a time or two—"You have been shot and you are going to die in two or three minutes now, and there ain't no use in your going to hell with a lie in your mouth so you ought to own up to it."

And that Peterson answered—"No, sir, I was not at the place at all, Mister, you have got the wrong man." And that Solicitor Long when he said that then said in substance to him: "Well don't you want to send a message to your wife?"

And the Negro said, in substance: "Yes, sir, tell her to meet me in Heaven."

And that Long then said in substance—"Yes, you are one of these Negroes that has got the idea that you will associate with white people up there."

And Peterson replied to that in substance—

"No, Sir, there is a place for Negroes and white folks both up there."

And if you didn't tell me further that within a few second after Long had finished questioning the Negro the solicitor said as follows, in substance:

"It is a hell of a comeoff that a Negro can't get protection in a county jail when you have got in the room the deputy sheriffs and chief of police and two or three other officers to give him protection—If you can't give him protection you ought to call out the soldiers or the army and the navy and give him the protection he is entitled to."

And didn't you say to me that Long then said, in words or in substance—"That Negro ain't no more guilty than I am."

(e) And did you not tell me during the week when you were at my apartment and also before then that Willie Peterson did not answer the description as given by the girls, Miss Wood and Miss Nell Williams, of the guilty party.

(f) And did you not tell me that you knew the point of identification that had been stressed in the description given by Miss Wood when she gave it, and that the Negro had dental work in his lower teeth and that she said she was well acquainted with dental work and that the dental work the Negro had in his lower teeth was not such as some Negroes would have by way of putting a gold crown on just to attract attention, but that the dental inlays or otherwise that the Negro had in his lower teeth was good work and that it showed between his teeth.

And then did you not tell me that you knew or was informed that if the Negro had been arrested in various parts of the state and in other states and that the arresting parties had informed the sheriff in Birmingham that the Negro arrested did not have this gold in his lower teeth or evidence of gold having been in his teeth and having been removed recently; that the sheriff here would have instructed them to turn him loose and that this was done in a number of instances; and that Willie Peterson had no evidence of having any gold workings in his lower teeth and that if he had been arrested at any place outside of Birmingham, such as Talladega or Tuscaloosa, that under the ruling or the custom that had been followed, as soon as it was ascertained that he had no gold in his lower teeth nor any evidence of having had some there recently and having had it removed, he would have been turned loose.

(g) Did you not tell me that Luther Hollums, now chief of police, had been put to work from the Police Department on this case and that Hollums did not believe that Peterson was guilty?

(h) Didn't you tell me that Sheriff Hawkins did not believe he was guilty and didn't you tell Sheriff Hawkins that you didn't believe they had the right man?

(i) Didn't you tell me that you had under arrest on one occasion a big black Negro who fitted the description to a very considerable extent and you believed that you had the right man and that you took this Negro to the hospital at night to be looked

over by Miss Nell Williams, that Clark Williams, her father, was present and that she directed that the girls captive on Shades Mountain for more than two hours. Peterson's death sentence already has been upheld by the Alabama Supreme Court and the U. S. Supreme Court has refused to review it.

(j) And did you not tell me further, that while you were there Miss Nell Williams made a statement to her father in substance as follows: "Well, daddy, you know I told you that the Negro did not get there 'till just about dark and during the time he was there for the most part he sat in the automobile behind me where I could not see him and during the most of the other time he was there it was dark so that I could not see him to pick out particulars of a description to any considerable extent."

And further, did you not tell me, and I am not raising any argument about it but I am stating that you did tell me, and I am asking you now if you do not recall having told me that you left there with the Negro and carried him to headquarters in the City Hall and after about 20 or 30 minutes after you got to the City Hall, that you turned the Negro loose because Miss Williams could not identify him and you had not sufficient proof on him to hold him and that about 20 minutes after you did turn him loose, that Mr. Clark Williams called you on the telephone and told you in substance to be sure to hold that Negro so that he could swear out a warrant for him the next morning, and when you told him that you had turned the Negro loose because you had no evidence against him, did you not tell me that Mr. Clark Williams told you in words or in substance—"For God's sake" to catch him again, that he was satisfied you had the right man and that you told him that you might be able to catch him again, but he might be gone and into another county by that time?

"I would thank you very much to inform me," Altman wrote McDuff, "whether you will go down in my automobile, leaving here at 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, as we arranged for and agreed upon when you were at my apartment, or have you made up your mind that you will not go?"

Mr. Altman's query referred to an alleged promise on the part of McDuff to accompany him to Montgomery to testify in the Peterson hearing.

McDuff replied as follows: "Your letter of the fourth instant received. In reply permit me to say that any suggestion that I have said anything to you at any time inconsistent with my letter to the governor's recording secretary, or my testimony given at the trial of Willie Peterson when called as a witness by the defendant, is untrue."

Peterson is in Kilby Prison with what physicians call an incurable case of tuberculosis. He was convicted of killing Miss Augusta Williams, and charged with killing Miss

JURY DEPLORES RISE IN ELMORE CRIMES

Situation 'Appalling' In County,
Report Affirms; Eight
Homicides Billed

WETUMPKA, ALA., March 3.—(Special)—The Grand Jury of Elmore County, which has been in session since Feb. 26, submitted its report to the Circuit Court this morning and adjourned subject to call. The report shows 72 cases on the docket, 186 witnesses examined and 42 true bills returned.

The following statement on the increase of crime in this country appears in the report:

"We are of the opinion that crime is increasing in Elmore County. During our investigation we have had occasion to investigate eight murder cases and have returned six true bills for this offense. The majority of the other cases investigated by this Grand Jury were for burglary, grand larceny and kindred offenses. The Grand Jury feels that this is an appalling situation when it is taken into consideration that it has been only about five months since a Grand Jury session was held.

"The Grand Jury feels that the sheriff and his deputies have been diligent and highly efficient in their effort to apprehend those guilty of violating these major crimes. The Grand Jury has made special mention of the crime situation in order that the law abiding citizenship of the County might realize just what the people are confronted with and lend their every effort to cooperate with the law enforcement agencies and courts of the County to the end that every violator be apprehended and proper justice meted out."

Willie Peterson Case Brings Forth I.L.D.-N.A.A.C.P. Stories

NAACP Announces that Patterson is to Get a New Hearing

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Willie Peterson, convicted of murder, was granted a new lease on life here this week when Governor B. M. Miller granted a stay of execution from February 16 to March 30. At the same time the governor announced that a clemency hearing would be held on March 6. J. W. Altman, chief counsel retained by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to defend Peterson, is in charge of the presentation of evidence and pleas at the clemency hearing. It is expected that new evidence establishing Peterson's innocence will be presented at that time.

The famous case took another sensational twist this week when former Chief of Police Fred McDuff "about faced" on his previous statement that he thought Peterson was innocent. Mr. Altman immediately challenged the change of face of McDuff and revealed the latter had agreed to go to Montgomery and tell Governor Miller he thought the state was about to execute the wrong man. It was intimated here that McDuff changed suddenly due to the influence of powerful friends of the dead girl's family who have been pressing for execution of Peterson in order to close up the case once and for all. McDuff is also said to have political ambitions.

Sheriff James Hawkins, so far as is known, is standing by his declaration to Governor Miller that Peterson is the wrong man. It was on the strength of this plea from the sheriff that the governor granted the first stay from January 12 to February 16.

I. L. D. Force Stay for Willie Patterson in New Hearing

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Yielding again to the mass pressure of thousands of resolutions and letters of protest from white and Negro workers and sympathizers in Alabama, Governor B. M. Miller has extended the scheduled execution of Willie Peterson from February 16 to March 30. The clemency hearing for this framed-up Negro

coal miner and war veteran has been set ahead from February 6 to March 6.

Peterson's death sentence for the alleged killing of a Birmingham society girl has been upheld by the Alabama Supreme Court and the U. S. Supreme Court, while the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People leaders, jockeyed the legal aspects of the case, aided in the suppression of evidence, and attempted to stifle mass pressure.

The first stay of the execution came from the governor shortly after Mrs. Henrietta Peterson, the condemned Negro's wife, had asked the International Labor Defense to double their campaign of protest and mass defense to save her husband.

Negroes Lose Plea; Execution Day Set

Hearing before Gov. Miller and the State Board of Pardons, a plea for commutation of William Winton and Judge Grooms, negroes, condemned to death for first degree murder, was set by the Governor yesterday for 10 o'clock next Saturday morning in the office of the Secretary of State, at the capitol. Winton, who was convicted in Walker County, of the murder of two white men, is to be executed in the electric chair at Kilby Prison, on March 16. No appeal was taken to the Supreme Court in the case and the execution date is the one set by the trial court at the time sentence was pronounced.

Grooms was tried and found guilty in the Dale Circuit Court, of murdering his wife. On appeal, the Supreme Court affirmed the judgment some time ago, and fixed March 23 as the date for execution of the death sentence.

There is serious doubt in the minds of a number of Dale County citizens as to the guilt of Grooms, it is understood and a large delegation is expected to be on hand from there, at the hearing, in support of the petition for commutation of sentence to imprisonment for life.

"GO YE FORTH AND KILL AGAIN"

THE frequency with which Negroes receive their license at the hands of juries for the slaying of a member of their race to go forth and kill again is not only a travesty upon our courts and jury system, but is alarming. The high rate of murder, tabulated by this paper and on the records of this county for the last year, would indicate very few convictions, and seldom a punishment.

Time and again there has been waged wars on the carrying of the deadly weapon and the tendency on the part of those lawless bearers to kill at the least provocation. With already a high death rate from unknown causes, Atlanta presents a sorry spectacle with her murders, daily adding to her toll and going at large trampling the innocent under foot, waging a red peril.

No community can feel a pride for its industrial and cultural achievements when its record is as black as night with those that her system allow to go free after committing the most cowardly murders.

In its grasp for these industrial developments so essential to the life of a community, it is indeed unfortunate to have to face a condition which argues the unsafety of property and human lives. Yet, with all our civic pride and the love for our native clime, we are forced to admit that in the developing day by day a killing complex. The very air about us rings with "Kill Him". In the hands of the illiterate and the ignorant the deadly revolver is allowed to secret itself and to pour forth in the dark and the light of day the deathly steel jacket.

Nothing undermines our industrial prowess, our self-respect like the crime wave in full blast, where the killer leaves his dead to bury his dead and is turned loose again on society.

The Solicitor's office has carried on a creditable campaign of apprehension of criminals. At the expense of the taxpayer it has crossed state borders and captured dangerous criminals. It has spared no pains in rounding up meritorious evidence and unimpeachable witness, only to have the base killer come before a jury which either absolutely exonerates him or brings in such a verdict that will cause the case to hang through months in which the killer will either get a light sentence or go scot free. So flagrant has this sort of procedure obtained, that the question has been constantly raised, "Will Negroes be punished for the killing of another Negro?"

Under such a condition the lawless Negro is encouraged at first impulse when he is slightly provoked to kill his victim. If he has worked at one time for some reputable concern or citizen, or is still engaged, he feels no fear when he has made widows and fatherless children of one whom he has killed.

In many instances, our system of justice becomes a laughing stock at the things brought out and allowed to operate in the criminal's favor that have no bearing whatever in the present innocence or guilt in the case at bar.

Such a condition as enumerated above is largely responsible for Negroes remaining dumb, when they have sufficient evidence in their possession to convict a member of the race for murder. On the one hand they fear the peril of vengeance, when the killer is turned loose of which they always have the suspicion that he will; and on the other the waste of time involved and fruitless labor in convicting a man, who through some slip

Human life among us is too cheap. The courage of our community the benefit of lawyers, will soon get his freedom. It is no un-charge of conviction and general law enforcement to bring in ing loud and bog of what they knew about the murder and re-an accounting for this terrible crime wave that gets its license fused to appear and testify.

These are slanders to represent the sinews of organized society and continued authority, but nevertheless true. A questionable and unsavory practice of justice is a license to met to operate outside the law. Nowhere does the fallacy 'bare up' so prominently in the criminal waste of the taxpayers' money to carry on such a sordid drama as an excuse for the support of an extensive legal machinery in the name of law and order.

GO YE FORTH AND KILL AGAIN.

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2-27-34

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Execution Day Set**

Chastity
The first before Gov. Wild and th

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The Solicitor's office has earned on a creditable campaign of apprehension of criminals. At the expense of the taxpayer it has crossed state borders and captured dangerous criminals. It has spared no pains in gathering up meritorious evidence and has been able to produce a case against the base killer even before the victim's body was found. It has been able to produce an impeccable witness, only to have the base killer come before the jury, who, after absconding with him or her, in such

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Color such a condition the lawless Negro is encouraged to get inside where he is slowly poisoned to kill his victim. If he has worked at one time for some reputable concern or if he is still employed in such a position when he has made widows and fatherless children, he is more easily accepted.

IN many instances, as a sign of justice becomes a burning stock at the range brought out and allowed to operate, the "eliminating" factor of justice is to give advantage in the present and in the future in the case of the future.

Such a condition as portrayed above is largely responsible for Negroes remaining in a condition they have sufficient evidence to believe is a condition of slavery.

office in the past, and he spent a number of the years in prison. On the road, they had the sort of relationship which the father has toward a son in which they always have the suspicion that he will, and at the cost the waste of time involved, and finances lost, in coming a fall, who through some sin

of the red-tape in our criminal procedure, made expressly for the benefit of lawyers, will soon get his freedom. It is no uncommon thing to hear them, after an inquest or court trial, telling loud and long of what they knew about the murder and refused to appear and testify.

These are shameful facts to represent the sinews of organized society and constituted authority, but nevertheless true. A questionable and unsavory practice of justice is a license to men to operate outside the law. Nowhere does the fallacy flare up so prominently in the criminal waste of the taxpayers' money to carry on such a sordid drama as an excuse for the support of an extensive legal machinery in the name of law and order.

Human life among us is too cheap. The community must be made safe for its citizens. The courage of our community should so assert itself to bring immediate demand on those in charge of conviction and general law enforcement to bring in an accounting for this terrible crime wave that gets its license from the courthouse, that ancient temple of justice.

We have come to the sad days when the chance of a killer is ninety-nine to one better than that of a man, hungry and naked, who steals a couple of cans of potted ham and a few packages of cigarettes.

Killings-1934

Alabama.

PETERSON TOO ILL TO PRESS OWN PLEA

But Clemency Hearing Will Go
With Possibly 2 Members
Of Board Absent

There was grave doubt last night whether Willie Peterson, Birmingham negro condemned to die March 30 for the slaying of Miss Augusta Williams, of Birmingham, would be able to attend the clemency hearing set for him in Gov. Miller's office today at 10 a.m.

Prison physicians said that Peterson was still confined to the hospital with an incurable case of tuberculosis, and that if he attended the hearing, he would have to be brought in the State Capitol on a stretcher.

There was also a strong possibility that only one member of the State Pardon Board, John Brandon, State auditor, would attend the hearing. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., attorney general, recused himself on the grounds that he was in charge of the Grand Jury that indicted Peterson, and the third member of the board, Pete B. Barlow, Jr., secretary of state, was confined to his home here with a bad cold and fever which physicians said might develop into influenza.

But Gov. Miller said the hearing, since all probability, would be held and pointed out that it was not necessary for Peterson to attend since the hearing was not in the nature of a trial that would require the defendant's presence.

Meanwhile, more than 100 letters have reached the Governor's office from Birmingham citizens, either asking for clemency or urging that the death sentence be carried.

Roderick Beddow, Birmingham attorney, will appear tomorrow to protest against clemency, while Peterson will be represented by John W. Altman, Birmingham attorney, who lost his fight before the U. S. Supreme Court for a new trial for the negro.

Under plans tentatively agreed upon tonight by the Chief Executive, all persons entering the hearing room will be searched for weapons, and there was a probability that only one witness would be allowed to enter the room at a time.

CLEMENCY IS URGED FOR PETERSON

Birmingham, Alabama,
February 3, 1934

His Excellency, B. M. Miller,
Governor of the State of Alabama,
Montgomery, Alabama,
Honorable Sir:

This petition of the undersigned citizens represents that Willie Peterson, Negro of Birmingham, Alabama, that the evidences upon which he was convicted have been proved in a large degree extremely doubtful and exaggerated, and that previous to his imprisonment he said Peterson had maintained the reputation of being a peaceable and law-abiding citizen. That since his imprisonment, according to reports, his conduct has been most obedient and submissive and that said Peterson strictly maintains his innocence.

Laboring under the impression that the Society in which he lived will in no sense be injured, we the Alabama State Federation of Colored Civic Leagues and hereby petition that all questions in the case have been sufficiently answered, and we do hereby earnestly implore executive clemency in his behalf.

In view of these facts above stated and with all evidence being in his favor, we are hereby appealing to you through the help of Almighty God to use the power vested in your high office as Governor of the State to judge and rule in accordance with the dictation of a fair heart and in keeping with the reduction of it and, at the same time on a world of rising prices. It was such a reduced salary to live in the South as between white and black workers.

"In the cotton textile industry," asserted Mr. Davis, "outside crews

and cleaners were exempted from any maximum hours or minimum wage provisions. Ten of the 13,000 Negro workers in the industry were in the exempted classes."

Nevertheless, in spite of the fact that his wage was not increased and in many cases decreased, Mr. Davis found on a trip through the textile region that a sack of flour which cost 60 cents before the code went into effect, cost \$1.00 afterwards, the average increase being 66 per cent. In like "Golden Rule." Finally after prayerful consideration in this case, we The Alabama State Federation of Colored Civic Leagues, Inc., recommend that exoneration for Peterson, would only represent the honest and just decision.

Earnest and Civically yours,
The State Federation of Leagues,
President, W. M. McAlpine;
Secretary, D. L. White.

Local Units of Federation
Enon Ridge Civic League, Pratt City Civic League, Ensley Civic League, Woodlawn Civic League, North Birmingham Civic League, East Birmingham Civic League, Bessemer Civic League, Vinesville Civic League, Republic Civic League, South Side Civic League, East Thomas Civic League, Fairfield Civic League, Avondale Civic League, Rosedale Civic League, Hudson City Civic League, South Elyton Civic League, Shelby County Civic League, Kingston Civic League, Mobile County Civic League.

Death Sentence Of
Negro Commuted

Gov. Miller yesterday commuted to life imprisonment the death sentence imposed on Fred Kinney, Perry County negro, following his conviction of the murder of James Phillips, a white man. Had Miller declined to interfere, Kinney would have been executed at Kilby Prison early Friday morning.

The members of the Board of Pardons were divided in their recommendations in the case; two refusing to recommend clemency, and the third favoring commutation. The trial judge and solicitor were against clemency. Numerous letters in the file presented pleas for and against the condemned man.

After briefly reviewing these facts in his official order, the governor recalled that the negro and Phillips were great friends; they made liquor together and separately and sold it in partnership. He recalled further that, according to the record, the two men fell out about

whisky condenser; the white man accused Kinney of stealing it; that a quarrel followed, the white man drew a pistol and the negro took an iron poker from the fireplace and struck Phillips on the head, killing him.

"It appears to me," the order there-after declares in conclusion, "that the ends of justice will be reached by fixing his punishment at life imprisonment. So let order issue accordingly."

CASE OF PETERSON IS UP TO GOVERNOR AND PARDON BODY

Former Miss Nell Williams Is
Positive In Identification
Of Accused Negro

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (P)—With a pointblank identification before them, the governor and State Pardon Board Wednesday had under advisement the plea of Willie Peterson, sentenced to die March 30 for the slaying of Miss Augusta Williams.

The hearing held in the office of Gov. Miller and attended only by John Brandon, state auditor, from the Pardon Board, reached its climax Tuesday night as Mrs. Louie Reese, Jr., the former Nell Williams, told her board "I could not possibly be mistaken."

Peterson, confined to Kilby hospital with tuberculosis, was not present, being represented only by his attorneys and persons who have become interested in his case.

Mrs. Reese, only survivor of a murderous attack in which her sister, Augusta, and Miss Jennie Wood were slain and she was wounded atop Shades Mountain in August, 1932, was calm as she told the packed executive chambers that she was positive Peterson was the slayer.

The flareups of attorneys who prosecuted the Negro and those who defended him enlivened the hearings. Scores of affidavits favoring clemency and others demanding that the sentence of the court be carried out were read into the record.

Defense counsel sought to show that the description given by Mrs. Reese at the time of the slaying, said the Negro had gold inlay work in his front teeth. That point in the description was taken from a police circular offering \$3,300 for the capture of the slayer.

This, J. T. Roach, of Birmingham, attorney for Peterson, pointed out did not fit his client, but Mrs. Reese emphatically denied describing the slayer as having gold inlay work.

Wade Wod, father of Miss Wood

board his daughter had no described gold she saw in the Negro's teeth as inlay work.

M. K. Miller, of Birmingham, told he board Peterson's wife was employed as a cook in his home, and that he saw the Negro at least once a week before his arrest on the streets of Birmingham and did not believe him capable of the crime.

Not At Home
On the day of the slaying, Peterson's wife, Miller said, was cooking in a camp in St. Clair County, and was not at home as Peterson testified in establishing his alibi.

A member of the Grand Jury, R. L. Moore, told the board the Grand Jury was undecided about returning an indictment, but after Mrs. Reese (Miss Nell Williams) had identified him, it was either return a true bill or leave "the impression Miss Williams had lied."

The board was told of the shooting of Peterson in the Birmingham jail by Dent Williams, brother of the slain girl, and that the Negro had steadfastly denied his guilt ever when officers told him he was dying.

"Tell my wife to meet me," the sheriff said the Negro gasped "Meet you where?" Sheriff Hawkins said he asked him and the Negro replied, "Meet me in heaven."

The shooting occurred a few days after Mrs. Reese had pointed out the Negro on the street to her escort who took him into custody.

Clarke Williams, father of Mrs. Reese and Miss Augusta Williams told the governor that during the trial his home had been besieged with calls, letters, and circulars charging Peterson had been framed. He finally had the telephone removed.

Letters on the case in favor of Peterson from Dr. Henry Edmonds pastor of the Independent Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, and Bishop W. G. McDowell, of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, were included in the file of the case.

If Gov. Miller and the Pardon Board decline to interfere, Peterson will be executed March 30. His case already has been to the United States Supreme Court which declined to interfere with the verdict.

PETERSON IS NOT SLAYER, WITNESS SAYS IN HEARING

Officer Is Cross-Examined
Bitterly In Negro's
Commutation Plea

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (P)—Charles Nollner, first officer to reach the scene where three Bir-

irmingham girls were shot down by a Negro, Aug. 4, 1931, in Mountain Brook, testified Wednesday Willie Peterson was not the Negro who committed the crime.

His testimony was the highlight of the morning session of Peterson's clemency hearing in Gov. Miller's office, and the noon recess was called just as he left the witness stand after cross-examination by state attorneys.

The governor's office was crowded throughout the morning as defense counsel introduced scores of affidavits challenging the identity of Willie Peterson as the guilty Negro.

Peterson, too ill to attend the hearing, is scheduled to die March 30 in the electric chair for the slaying of Miss Augusta Williams. Miss Jennie Wood also was killed, and Miss Nell Williams wounded by the Negro who held the three girls captive on Shades Mountain three hours.

Nollner said Miss Nell Williams gave him a description of the Negro that did not fit Peterson.

"I don't think Willie Peterson is the guilty Negro," Nollner said. "I don't think he was given a square deal."

In the crowd as he testified were Mr. and Mrs. Clark Williams and Dent Williams, parents and brother of the two Williams girls, and Wade Wood, father of Miss Jennie Wood.

Jim Long, assistant solicitor of Jefferson Circuit Court, subjected Nollner to a bitter cross-examination, starting by asking if the special officer had not threatened to whip him on sight.

"No, I haven't," Nollner replied, adding, "but I'll be glad to meet you anywhere at anytime."

"Isn't it true," interrupted Roderick Beddow, special attorney for the state in Peterson's trial, "that you were fired by the postoffice in 1929 for dishonesty?"

"Yes, I was fired but not for dishonesty," Nollner replied.

Beddow then showed Nollner a picture of Peterson taken the day after his arrest, and asked if he could identify the picture as that of Peterson.

"No, I can't," Nollner said, "I don't know whether that's Willie Peterson or not."

Nollner then admitted on question that he was not an officer of the Birmingham police force, but was a special officer paid by the residents of Mountain Brook.

"That makes you just a night watchman, doesn't it?" Beddow asked. "Anyway you like, Mr. Beddow," Nollner answered, smiling.

Almost the entire morning was consumed by defense counsel in tracing the case from the time of the murder to the action of the U. S. Supreme Court in refusing to review the case.

Great stress was laid on the fact that police circulars offering a \$3,000 reward had described the murderer as having gold inlay work on his lower teeth, while Peterson did not have such dental work.

A letter from Mayor Acker, Lincoln, Ala., was introduced stating that a Negro passed through that town the day after the killing and

asked if anyone had heard of three girls being killed at Birmingham. The letter stated that the Negro had gold inlay on his lower teeth, and answered the description of the murderer as outlined on the police circular.

John Brandon, state auditor, was the lone member of the State Pardon Board attending the hearing since Secretary of State Jarman was confined to his home with illness, and Attorney General Knight recused himself because he was in charge of the Grand Jury that indicted Peterson.

Miss Williams, now Mrs. Louis Reese, Jr., of Birmingham, was on the list of witnesses to testify. She already has interviewed the three members of the State Pardon Board and urged that the death sentence be carried out.

Peterson was arrested after Miss Williams identified him while he was walking along the streets of Birmingham several weeks after the crime.

Should Mr. Jarman recover within the next few days, he will be asked to make a recommendation on the written record, otherwise the governor will hand down his final decision based on Mr. Brandon's recommendation and his own judgment.

KNIGHT IS RECUSED IN PETERSON CASE

Asked To Do So By Counsel For Negro, Attorney General Reveals

Thomas E. Knight, Jr., attorney general, has asked permission to recuse himself from the board of pardons when Peterson's plea for clemency and asked for that "the State take his life before he commits this heinous crime."

In his letter of recusal addressed to Gov. Miller, which was made public in his office last night, the attorney general points out that he directed the Grand Jury investigation which resulted in Peterson's indictment and revealed that he was requested by the negro counsel, to recuse himself.

Mr. Knight's letter to the governor said:

"As you know, I personally conducted the investigation of the Grand Jury at which session Willie Peterson was indicted; also, my office opposed the reversal of his appeal to the Supreme Court of Alabama; also, I was requested to personally represent the State before the Supreme Court of the United States."

"The defendant's counsel, the Honorable John W. Altman, has requested that I recuse myself as a member of the Board of Pardons in this instance."

"In view of the circumstances, I prefer not to sit with the board, nor to participate in this deliberation in the matter of the application of clemency to Willie Peterson."

Peterson Is The Right Negro, Nell Williams Tells Governor

Miss Nell Williams, beautiful young Birmingham girl, last night told Gov. Miller she was positive that Willie Peterson-Ala., near Anniston and affidavits from two negroes living at Lincoln told of a negro who passed through the town the morning following the crime, asking if anyone had heard of three girls being killed in Birmingham. This negro, they declared, answered the description of the negro sought, even to the gold inlay work.

A letter from E. E. Cade of Birmingham, who served on the Grand Jury, stated that several members of the Grand Jury had stated, after viewing Peterson in the County Jail, that they would never have indicted him if they had been asked to do so.

The governor said the negro's plea for a chance to see him before the indictment was voted.

The first clash of the hearing between State and defense counsel occurred as J. F. Roach, Birmingham attorney who represented Peterson and obtained a mistrial in the first trial, started his opening speech by declaring "I am a defender of innocent people."

Mr. Beddow rose to his feet and asked Gov. Miller "are we going to spend the morning listening to this man extol his virtues?"

The governor warned both attorneys and asked Mr. Roach to confine his remarks to the evidence.

A moment later Mr. Roach said that "that ignoramus of an attorney," had caused a poor presentation of the defense at the trial.

"Who do you mean by 'that attorney?'" asked Mr. Long.

"I mean my associate," Mr. Roach said. "I see," Mr. Long retorted, "I just wanted to keep the record straight."

The constant quarrelling between counsel reached its climax as Charles A. Nollner, special officer of Mountain Brook, testified that he did not believe Peterson was the guilty negro.

After a bitter clash with Mr. Long, over personalities, Nollner admitted that he had been discharged from the Birmingham postoffice in 1920, but denied that his discharge was the result of dishonesty.

John Brandon, State Auditor and the only member of the State Pardon Board sitting with Gov. Miller at the recent hearing of the clemency application of Willie Peterson, Jefferson County negro, condemned to death for the murder of Miss Augusta Williams, Birmingham society girl—yesterday declined to recommend commutation of the death sentence

nicked up in surrounding towns were released after it was found that their dental work did not correspond on this point.

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"Who do you mean by 'that attorney?'" asked Mr. Long.

"I mean my associate," Mr. Roach said. "I see," Mr. Long retorted, "I just wanted to keep the record straight."

The constant quarrelling between counsel reached its climax as Charles A. Nollner, special officer of Mountain Brook, testified that he did not believe Peterson was the guilty negro.

After a bitter clash with Mr. Long, over personalities, Nollner admitted that he had been discharged from the Birmingham postoffice in 1920, but denied that his discharge was the result of dishonesty.

Brandon Denies Peterson's Plea

Only Member Of Board At Hearing Unwilling To Disturb Court's Verdict

John Brandon, State Auditor and the only member of the State Pardon Board sitting with Gov. Miller at the recent hearing of the clemency application of Willie Peterson, Jefferson County negro, condemned to death for the murder of Miss Augusta Williams, Birmingham society girl—yesterday declined to recommend commutation of the death sentence

imposed in the case, to life imprisonment. In a report forwarded to the Governor yesterday afternoon, Mr. Brandon said:

"The defendant in this case was indicted by a Grand Jury in the county where he lived. He had two trials in the Circuit Court of this county, the latter trial resulting in a conviction.

"His case was appealed to the Supreme Court of this State, which court affirmed the decision of the Circuit Court. His case was then appealed to the United States Supreme Court, which court declined to interfere.

"One living eye witness to this double murder states that she is positive in her identification that Willie Peterson is the one who committed the crime.

"In view of the these facts, I do not feel justified in recommending setting aside the verdict of the court."

Gov. Miller will receive the report when he reaches his office. Monday morning, together with the record. He will begin consideration of the case as soon thereafter as possible, and is expected to render a decision as to Peterson's fate some time next week.

The State Board of Pardon is composed, in addition to Auditor Brandon, of Atty. Gen. Knight, and Secretary of State Jarman. The Attorney General, who directed the Grand Jury investigation that resulted in the negro's indictment, and who was requested to counsel for Peterson to recuse himself from sitting at the clemency hearing of March 6, did so several days prior to that date. Secretary of State Jarman was confined to his bed with an attack of influenza, and could not attend.

Recommendation by Mr. Brandon, therefore, is the only one the Governor will receive from the Board regarding Peterson's petition. Under the law, the Board's recommendations are in no sense binding or mandatory upon the Governor, but are merely advisory. In rendering a decision he may either follow that advice or not, as he desires.

Killings-1934

KILLING OF PLANTER

ADMITTED BY NEGRO
Commercial Appeal
Miles Green Confesses to Slay-
ing John Eastridge
Memphis, Tenn.

LITTLE ROCK, Aug. 3. (AP)—Miles Green, 46, negro, tonight confessed, officers said, to the ambush slaying last night of John F. Eastridge, 64, Union County planter, who was shot to death at his home 25 miles southeast of El Dorado.

Green's confession came almost 12 hours after he was taken into custody at Eastridge's home where the planter's bullet riddled body was discovered early today. No motive for the crime had been established tonight.

Prosecuting Attorney Alvan D. Stevens, of El Dorado, who took Green's written confession, said that the negro would be returned to Union County tomorrow to face a first degree murder charge.

Green said he laid in wait for Eastridge last night and shot him to death when he emerged from a garage. Green said that he fired two charges from a shotgun into Eastridge's body.

SON IS INDICTED
Commercial Appeal
IN FATHER'S DEATH

Earl Eastridge Accused With
Negro in Slaying
8-12-34

EL DORADO, Ark., Aug. 18.—Charged with complicity in the slaying of his father, Earl East-
ridge, 37, was indicted for acces-
sory before the fact of murder by
the Union County grand jury here
today. *Memphis, Tenn.*

Indicted on a murder count with disturbance charge Sunday night, Eastridge was Miles Green, negro farm hand, who two days after safe keeping today. Ward was found dying in his store late Thurs-
day. He died without making a statement.

Eastridge was found shot to death near his farm home on the morning of Aug. 2. Officers quoted the negro as saying that young Eastridge promised him \$100 for the job. The father and son were reported to have had trouble recently.

FARMER HELD IN KILLING NEGRO HELD IN SLAYING

Commercial Appeal
Negro Tenant Died After Blow Woman Arrested Near Eudora,
Ark., After Stabbing

ELYTHEVILLE, Ark., Aug. 1.—Tull Johnson, farmer, was held to the grand jury under \$500 bond when he waived preliminary examination in municipal court today on a charge of manslaughter.

Johnson is alleged to have struck J. E. Johnson, aged negro, over the head in an altercation at Johnson's farm where the negro had been making a share crop. The negro died several days later.

KILLING STOREKEEPER

ADMITTED BY NEGRO
Commercial Appeal
Farm Hand Confesses to Slay-
ing Lee Ward
9-12-34

EL DORADO, Ark., Sept. 12.—Because he was too free with money, Purcell Mitchell, 21, negro farm hand, is held on a charge of murder and county officers said that he has confessed the slaying and robbery last Thursday of Lee L. Ward, 69, Union County merchant, at the Ward store seven miles east of El Dorado.

Mitchell was serving out a fine in jail here this week on a charge of disturbing public worship when L. Bell, farmer, living near the scene of the slaying, informed county officers that Mitchell recently had been spending money freely.

Officers said that the negro told them that he went to the store and made some purchases, and having no money killed the merchant. They quoted Mitchell as saying that he shot Ward in the back of the head with a pistol and obtained \$14 from the cash register. He evaded a bloodhound placed on his trail. Officers found that Mitchell had sold the pistol to another negro. Mitchell was arrested on the disturbance charge Sunday night.

He was taken to a distant jail for safe keeping today. Ward was found dying in his store late Thursday. He died without making a statement.

EUDORA, Ark., Aug. 12.—W. H. Mathis, Eudora city marshal, and Thomas Routh, deputy sheriff of Chicot County, yesterday arrested a woman, charged with fatally stabbing E. E. Wilson of Lake Providence, La., on June 30. She was arrested on the Patricia Davis place south of Eudora.

The woman was a tenant on the Wilson place. Wilson had reprimanded her son who was working for him. She came to his house while he was seated at the table eating his breakfast. Wilson ordered her to leave and she stabbed Wilson seven times with a jack knife, officers said.

Sheriff John Bass of West Carroll Parish placed her in an un-announced jail.

HUNT NEGRO IN DEATH OF MERCHANT'S SON

Commercial Appeal
Roy Spear Dies of Injuries at
Little Rock
10-31-34

LITTLE ROCK, Oct. 30. (AP)—Roy Spear, 45, son of a merchant at Tinsman, died in a hospital today of injuries inflicted yesterday by a negro who was being sought by a posse in the vicinity of Tinsman, in South Arkansas.

Spear's skull was fractured by a blow and he died a few hours after being received at a hospital.

The negro sought was Clinton Matlock.

Sheriff C. I. Abbott of Calhoun County said he learned Spear went to the negro's home to recover some goods Matlock allegedly had taken from the Spear store.

Arkansas.

Killings-1934

California

YOUTH IS HELD FOR MURDERING SISTERS

Post
Little Girls Die In Icebox
After Criminal Assault

By United Press.

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Sept. 6.—Sixteen-year-old Civerina Paiva farm youth who confessed locking his two little sisters in an icebox where they died of suffocation, was to be charged formally with murder today.

Authorities decided to file the charge despite doubt of his sanity.

Although Civerino insisted he had placed Mary, 6, and Marian, 7, in the refrigerator at their own request, his 12-year-old brother, James, said the older boy locked the children in to punish them. He did not like the way they washed the dishes. Civerino called James a "liar."

The deaths occurred Saturday. For several days Civerino had been under constant questioning. He admitted criminally assaulting the little girls, one on the day of their deaths and the other previously.

Negro Confesses Mystery Slaying Youth Advances Plea Of Self-Defense In Killing Of Son Of Missionaries

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 12.—(P)—Police Capt. A. S. Bradley announced late today that Russ Griffin, 19-year-old negro, confessed he shot and killed Lawrence Leonard Lyons, 30, son of New York missionaries, claiming he did so in self-defense.

The body of Lyons was found early today in Little Harlem, negro section of Los Angeles. His killing had been a mystery, as he had no known enemies, and it did not appear to have been a robbery case.

Capt. Bradley related that Griffin, alias George Johnson, told him he was walking home from a beer parlor, carrying two pistols, when he met Lyons. An argument started. Griffin recounted how Lyons wrested one of the guns from him and shot at him, the officer said.

The negro youth assertedly described drawing his remaining pistol and shooting Lyons in the forehead. Griffin admitted, however, fleeing from the scene and exchanging shots with Officers C. E.

Drew and J. A. Schiller, Capt. Bradley recounted.

Griffin was arrested with Willie Smith, 24, negro, who was said to have owned one of the pistols. Griffin, police reported, said he took the gun from Smith earlier last night.

Lyons, a graduate of Yale and Columbia, was the son of Dr. and Mrs. D. Willard Lyons, of New York, who recently made a survey of missions in the Far East for the Rockefeller Foundation. He had been studying at the medical school of the University of California.

Police Officers B. J. St. Charles and George C. Lindstrom said they found Lyons's wallet in the room which Smith and Johnson assertedly occupied. Also in the room, police said, were a blue sweater similar to the one worn by one of the men who killed Lyons, and a pair of torn trousers.

One of the escaping gunmen tore his trouser leg as he climbed over a fence, witnesses said.

Shortly after the killing of Lyons, police closed in on a negro suspect, who escaped after an exchange of bullets. The suspect aimed point blank at Officer C. E. Drew but the gun missed fire, and he fled.

Close to the scene of Lyons's death was found his automobile. In it, police said, was a pint of whisky of a type purchased earlier in the night by Johnson and Smith when the two took occasion to brandish guns at a small liquor establishment.

Police reported Lyons had been playing bridge earlier last night, and apparently was stopped as he was driving alone in his car, and was forced by the two gunmen to drive to the Little Harlem district. Here, instead of surrendering his wallet, he attempted to fight his captors, and the fatal shooting followed.

Lyons died in a receiving hospital without regaining consciousness, a bullet wound in his head. In addition, he had been beaten on the face with a gun butt.

Killings-1934

D.C.

64 Negroes Slain in District of Columbia During the Past Year

Sixty-four Negroes have been slain in the District of Columbia between January 1 and November 30, according to information received from the Statistical Division of the Police Department and the Homicide Squad. This includes only cases with charges of first or second degree murder or manslaughter.

Thirty-five of this number have been shot to death, 19 have died from knife injuries, six have been slain with blunt instruments, and the remainder died of wounds inflicted with other objects. Nine of the victims have been women.

Peak Reached in August

The largest number of killings in which colored were involved occurred in August when nine were killed. January was second with eight. Four months had six colored homicide cases each. They were: March, July, September, and November.

The month of June had its record marred by only one killing, while February was second lowest with three.

Two Await Death

As a result of slayings committed during the year an analysis of the Criminal Court records reveal that two men are now awaiting death in the electric chair on March 23. Four men are serving life sentences; seven persons are serving 20-year sentences; 18 have been sentenced to prison for shorter terms ranging from one to 15 years.

Many of the persons accused of first degree murder, second degree murder, or manslaughter in connection with the slayings have been released following the refusal of the grand jury to indict them. Others are still pending.

Murder Indictments Demand Trial of 3 Negroes

Three Negroes, Bennie Lee Draper, James Morton and Claude Joseph Morton, will be called upon next Thursday to answer charges of first degree murder in connection with the stabbing to death of Hurley Cassidy in an altercation, on October 15 last.

Indictments charging each of the three with the actual murder and the other two with being accessories were returned by the Grand Jury recently.

Negro is Just "Ambrose"

Six men were called to the stand to testify at the coroner's inquiry into the death of Milton Robinson, 11, of 903 Eighth Street, Northeast, who was knocked down and fatally injured by a Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis trolley car, Monday. The inquest was held Wednesday.

Of the six, five were white and the remaining one colored. Miss Goldie Paregol, Jewish lawyer representing the child's parents, addressed each of the Caucasian witnesses with the customary "Mister." One, a doctor, was called by that title. When the Negro witness took the stand, he became "Ambrose," to Miss Paregol.

Numerous questions which might or might not have been relevant, depending largely on the viewpoint of the listener—were fired at the witnesses by the attorney for the colored family. But when a 15-year-old youngster testified that Robinson was walking with his coat collar turned up around his face "so that the patrol boys wouldn't see him and report him," (a declaration involving purely opinion—not fact—of a minor) the testimony was not challenged and was allowed to be entered in the records.

Without regard to the merits of individuals as lawyers, the Tribune feels that very little effort would have to be expended to find a Negro counsellor who would not at least influence the maintenance of social equality during the use of five white men and one colored man as witnesses in a morgue hearing.

It is doubtless this same apparent lack of confidence in our own race that caused the capabilities of Charles H. Houston in the Crawford murder trial to explode like a bombshell on an unbelieving white community.

Killings-1934

BEAUMONT, TEX.
ENTERPRISE

SEBRING, FLA.
AMERICAN

APR 27 1934

IN THE LINE OF DUTY

APR 6 1934
AN "EXECUTION" IN FLORIDA

In Florida the father of a small girl attacked by a negro kills the negro and is promptly exonerated by a coroner's jury, which held the act to be "justifiable homicide." The details of the killing, as related in a press dispatch from Bradentown, are interesting. The negro was walking between two officers, who must have been looking the other way, for there is nothing in the dispatch to indicate that they made any effort to protect their prisoner when the aggrieved father walked up behind him, placed a pistol to his back and fired twice.

Not long ago in Mississippi a father whose daughter had been attacked asked permission to hang the negro rapists convicted of the offense and sentenced to death. A bill to give him this privilege was actually passed by one branch of the Mississippi legislature. However, sober second thought prevailed and the execution was carried out in the usual manner, although the father was permitted to watch it.

Any father might think he was justified in killing the man, white or black, who attacked his daughter, but if the right is conceded in one instance, as was done by the coroner's jury in Florida, what is to prevent a person from taking the law into his own hands and acting as judge and executioner whenever he feels so disposed? The farmer who sees his property taken away from him by a mortgage holder may feel like shooting the mortgage holder; the citizen whose car is wrecked by a speeding driver may think shooting is too good for the culprit, but if law means anything, no distinction can be drawn between one kind of justice and another.

The rapist deserves death, and the law provides death. The law does not provide any means for the satisfaction of private vengeance and when the taking of such vengeance is controlled by legal agencies, they themselves violate the spirit of the law.

A story comes out of La Crosse which clearly illustrates that an officer of the law knows not what danger awaits him in the pursuit of his duties.

Last Sunday Deputy Sheriff May of Alachua County, was called from church services by a negro woman who complained that a negro, Henry Johnson, was threatening violence in the negro quarters.

Accompanied by another deputy, May went to the disturber's home and called him to come out. Johnson peeped around the door-jamb but refused to come out. May reached across and pulled the negro out on the porch. The negro immediately opened fire on the deputy, firing six shots, three of which entered May's body. Before collapsing, however, May pulled out his gun and hit the escaping negro, immediately killing him.

The other deputy, not expecting any trouble and who had remained in the car, came immediately to May's assistance, but May was injured beyond hope and died shortly afterwards.

Just an example of the unknown dangers constantly threatening our peace officers.

COURT REHEARS
CASES OF FOUR CON-
DEMNED TO DIE IN
FLORIDA

Men Defended by S. D. McGill, First Colored Attorney to Appear in

County 5-4-34

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, May—(Byever appeared in any court here. One John Henry Adams for the Association of the most noticeable high lights of the Negro Press)—In the hearing during the entire trial was the fact of the use of the offensive term "Nigger." Pompano Negroes who have been that is commonly used in southern courts, was never mentioned or any murder of Robert M. Darcey, white, other reference to race or color. The attorney for the defendants Gill, Negro attorney of Jacksonville, left the court room with not only Florida, fearlessly and efficiently the praise and admiration of the represented the defendants before the audience, black and white, but even Circuit court of Broward county, Judge Geo. W. Tedder, publicly Florida, April 20, 1934. In spite of commended him from the bench and a tense undercurrent of excitement, complimented the audience for their conduct and order during the trial court room was orderly, due to the fact that the court room and grounds were heavily guarded by officers of Broward and Dade Counties, who were armed with machine guns, saw-ed off shot guns and tear gas bombs.

Attorney McGill lost no time in placing on the stand the four defendants who in their order gave testimony on their behalf and showed evidences of brutal treatment which they said was administered by local officers of the law during their confinement in the Broward county jail. Their testimony was to the effect that they were beaten, kicked on their shins, hit on their heads with guns and strung up by their necks to force a confession. In the course of cross examination of some of the state witnesses, Atty. McGill in direct question to Sheriff Clark, called his attention to an answer that the Sheriff had given in a previous trial to State's Attorney Louis F. Maire to the effect that the Sheriff had kept the defendants up all night for a week before they confessed, catching them in lies now and then and straightening them out. The attorney for the defendant's pressing the Sheriff for an explanation of his answer asked: "What did you mean by the term catching them in lies and straightening them out?" The Sheriff, in his confusion said, "Straightening out lies." "Suppose the defendants said that they were not guilty, queried McGill. "Would you straighten that out too?" The sheriff was speechless for a while and ventured to say that he was just checking up the statements.

In cross examining the two white lawyers who were appointed by the court to represent the defendants, one of them stated that the Sheriff and one Capt. J. T. Williams, who is not an officer, came to him and requested that he go to the jail as the defendants were ready now to change their pleas from not guilty to guilty.

Atty. S. D. McGill captivated the court and the audience by his cool, efficient and dignified manner of de-

portment during this trial. This is the first time in the history of Broward county that a Negro lawyer has

FLORIDA SUPREME COURT TO HEAR ARGUMENTS FOR CONDEMNED MEN

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Sept. 2.—(Special)—On Thursday, September 11, the Supreme Court of Florida will sit en banc to hear oral arguments on an appeal from the judgment of the Circuit Court of Broward County, Florida, condemning Izell Chambers, Walter Woodard, Jack Williamson and Charlie Davis to death in the electric chair for the alleged murder of William Darcey, a white man, two years ago at Pompano, Florida.

This is the third time the Florida Supreme Court has heard oral arguments against the death sentences imposed on the defendants. July of last year they were snatched from the electric chair just two days before the time set for their executions.

The high court referred the cases back to the Circuit Court of Broward County where the defendants were convicted with directions to investigate the judgment based upon the confessions of guilt made by the defendants obtained by third degree methods. The hearing was held in April.

Under Heavy Guard

The prisoners appeared in court under heavy guard with their counsel, S. D. McGill who has waged a bitter fight to save their lives. The officers in charge of the defendants at the April trial, used every precaution to avoid mob violence. The quartet was brought to the trial court in an armoured motor car.

Machine guns, sawed off shot guns and tear gas bombs were trained on the prisoners as they filed from the truck into the spacious court house around which machine guns had been installed to be put in action upon a moment's notice.

If the defendant should lose their appeal, Florida may witness her first quadruple execution. The defendants are represented in the Supreme Court by S. D. McGill and Robert P. Crawford, local Jacksonville, Florida, attorneys, while the state is represented by Attorney General Carey D. Landis.

Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Nov.

September 12, 1934

NEGROES MAKE NEW APPEAL

State Supreme Court Considers Darcey Killers Appeal For New Trial

The state supreme court at Tallahassee yesterday took under consideration the latest appeal for freedom by the four negroes convicted of the murder of Robert Darcey of Pompano sixteen months ago, ac-

Motion for a new trial was argued before the supreme court yesterday in an effort to secure release from the electric chair death sentence facing the four negroes.

Alleged brutality by officers in forcing confessions from the negroes was renewed as the plea for the grounds for the new trial, while the state, represented by the attorney-general's office, upheld Circuit Judge Geo. W. Tedder's denial of a new trial. The court took the case under advisement at the conclusion of the oral arguments.

NEGRO COUPLE HELD

IN DEATH OF GIRL

MARIANNA, Fla., Oct. 24.—(AP)

Officers said today they were holding a negro man and woman for questioning in connection with the death of Lola Cannidy, 20, whose body was found in a pond close to her home at Greenwood near here.

The officers declined to reveal where they were keeping the prisoners, declaring they wished to avoid any possible violence.

A searching party found the girl's body half submerged in the pond. The head, officers said, had been beaten with a blunt instrument.

Killings-1934.

THE NEGRO THE GOAT.

Not every Negro accused of crime involving white persons is guilty and credit for establishing this fact beyond a doubt is due in a large measure to the fair-minded attitude of several Knoxville and Knox county officers.

In Memphis, Tennessee, several months ago, a white man is said to have walked to Beale Avenue, habitue of irresponsible Negroes, and there approached a Negro man with the request that he accompany him home for the purpose of moving some whiskey. When the two reached the home, the white man is said to have killed his wife with an axe and then shot the Negro, following which he summoned officers and declared that he shot the Negro after being aroused from his sleep and found the Negro killing his wife. The Negro lived long enough to give officers the story. The officers of Shelby county and the grand jury accepted the Negro's story as true and the white husband was brought to trial on the charge of slaying the Negro, but the jury freed him. *East Tennessee News 2-8-34*

Right here in Knoxville, a white man was slain on a road near the city limits and his relative sounded the alarm that two Negroes had done the killing while he was forced to look on. "How do you know they were Negroes," Sheriff J. Wesley Brewer, of Knox County, asked the relative, to which he replied: "I knew them by their smell." Several weeks later finds the accuser of "Negroes" behind the bars of our jail along with three other white men who charge that he paid them to kill his relative, much to the credit of the diligent Sheriff Brewer. The sheriff also outlines that he has information to offer showing that the white man relative of the slain man approached a Negro man at the corner of Vine and Central, contracted with him to do some work at the house where the man was later killed, and it appears that his plans included taking the Negro to the point where his relative lived, killing his relative and then killing the Negro with a view of entering a plea that the Negro did the killing and was in turn killed. *Knoxville, Tenn.*

But the latest situation of this sort developed just this week wherein a young white man residing next door to one of Knoxville's most genial and popular policemen, walked to Vine and Central one night and there met a strange Negro, lured him off under the pretext that he would provide employment for him, secured a room for him after buying his supper and the next morning went to the room took him out to an almost exclusive white neighborhood where he knew his neighbor policeman would pass by on his early start for duty, and there directed a deadly assault at the policeman, running off into the darkness, apparently believing the offi-

cer was dead. The Negro was left at the scene, but made his escape into the darkness, only to be apprehended later at which time he told the entire story of the white man's conduct. The white man, even after he was taken into custody, attempted to place the crime on the Negro, but shrewd and fair-minded officers saw through the entire situation, as did Attorney General J. Fred Bibb, and when the matter came up for hearing Tuesday of this week, the Negro was released from custody. The white man submitted after hearing the Negro tell the jury his account of the affair, and a 3 to 15 year penitentiary sentence was imposed.

There is no question but had the lone Negro been found in the section where the crime was committed, infuriated citizens would have meted out summary violence to him, possibly killing him, and the guilty party would have gone free. It is plain that his plans were outlined so that the Negro would have to suffer for the crime, but fate placed the case into the hands of Detectives Parker and Swanner whose reputations for fairness in dealing with all men are unquestioned and they refused to be blinded by the prejudicial statement, "a nigger did it!"

Such situations as outlined above should certainly offer sufficient argument against mob activity. Many innocent Negroes have gone to their deaths under similar circumstances, and the actual perpetrators of crimes are today stalking about the streets of hundreds of southern communities.

The situation offers another suggestion to the extent of warning all Negroes to refuse to join in lawless conduct, regardless as to its nature. The operation of criminals of the type referred to above can cause entire communities to be thrown into tumultuous state of affairs. The race's leadership will render a great service by issuing a warning to the ignorant and unsuspecting element to safeguard their interests by steering clear of suspicious persons of either race, especially when suggestions of law violations are made.

General.

Killings-1934

General.

Editorial Page Is Praised Here

Mrs. Warren Grice, speaking for the club women of Macon, says: "I want to congratulate you on the quality of the editorial page of The Telegraph. Its content is entirely representative of the best sentiment in the South. Even the letter column has taken on snappiness and worth. My young people enjoy everything on the page and the large number of club women with whom I come in contact are most generous in their praise. It seems to be improving from day to day. I am so glad you moved Dr. McCoy over to another place in the paper. It gives you more room for real editorial material. Now, if you will minimize murder stories and stuff of that kind we will all feel that The Telegraph is an ideal family newspaper."

EIGHT NEGROES EXECUTED IN SOUTH ON FRIDAY BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eight negroes were executed in the south yesterday, four for murder and four for attacks on white girls. Three of those convicted of attack admitted their guilt but another protested he was innocent.

At Hernando, Miss., Isaac Howard Ernest McGehee and Johnny Jones confessed they attacked a 17-year-old white girl, warned others not to commit similar crimes but faced the hangman singing negro spirituals.

John Decker, electrocuted at the Georgia prison at Milledgeville, claimed until the last that another negro wearing Downer's shoes committed the attack for which the negro went to the chair.

Sandy Walker followed Downer to the death chair in Milledgeville and said he was "satisfied" with the penalty he was paying for killing two leading Worth county, Georgia, negroes.

Another double electrocution at Raleigh, N. C., took the lives of Jesse Brooke, who killed Detective Roland A. Gill, of Durham, and James Johnson, convicted of slaying his sweet heart.

Bob Owens was hanged at Tupelo, Miss., for the slaying of R. B. Johnson, a wealthy recluse.

Killings - 1934

SLAYING OF SCOTT LAID TO 'UNKNOWN'

Inquest Fails To Determine Identity of Persons Killing Negro Editor.

George Maddox, negro, whom the police held in the murder of W. A. Scott, 31-year-old publisher of the Atlanta World, negro daily newspaper, was freed when a coroner's jury reached a verdict late Saturday that Scott came to his death the night of January 30 by shots "fired by a person or persons unknown."

After taking testimony for eight hours—the longest coroner's investigation, Coroner Paul Donehoo said, since the Mary Phagan case 20 years ago—J. R. Little, foreman of the jury, announced the verdict at about 6:45 o'clock. The jury deliberated for about 30 minutes.

Maddox, who is the brother of Scott's widow, established an alibi in the testimony of Frankie Miles, young negro woman. The Miles woman testified that on the night Scott was shot as he put his car in his garage Maddox was with her all evening until 11:05 o'clock. Scott was shot at about 10 o'clock.

Coroner Donehoo announced that Maddox would not be held further, so far as he was concerned, and, after being returned to the police station, the negro was freed "for want of prosecution."

Testimony of several witnesses that Scott, on his death bed, expressed belief that he had been shot by George Maddox, his brother-in-law by his fourth marriage, was met by testimony of other witnesses that relations between Scott and his fourth wife's relatives were friendly after the woman's father was satisfied by the exhibition of three divorce decrees for the three previous marriages.

Attorney William Schley Howard, representing the late publisher's brother-in-law, George Maddox, who was arrested Friday night on his return from Birmingham, cross-examined the witnesses and sought to show that Scott's purchase of the negro Odd Fellows' building might have provided a motive for the shooting.

Attorney Walter S. Dillon appeared in behalf of the Scott family. Dillon, taking the stand, said that Scott sought to rush up the contract to purchase the Odd Fellows' building because he feared others might get it. After he was shot, he told Dillon that he thought a white man was respon-

sible, the lawyer said. Later, when he came to draw up his will, Scott expressed belief that Maddox shot him, but said that he "didn't blame him." Dillon testified.

Detective J. T. Woodruff quoted Scott as saying that "some colored businessmen know something about this," and said that Scott told him that the assailant did not mean to kill him but intended to cripple him.

Dr. C. W. Powell, negro physician, at whose hospital Scott was kept for several days before his transfer to Spelman, said that he received a threatening letter because Scott was being treated at his institution.

Dr. Powell quoted Scott as saying first that he was shot by a white man and a colored man, second by a light-skinned negro or a white man, and third by a white man.

Dr. J. Harry Rogers, white physician who handled Scott's case, said that the publisher "thought" he recognized Maddox as the assailant.

Emma Lee Scott, the publisher's mother, said that the dying man told her that "that man looked like George," and that he told his wife, "you know your brother and daddy said they would get me."

Detective E. R. Hilderbrand said that Scott told him he believed that "businessmen are behind it."

Slayer of Officer Sentenced to Die

SAVANNAH, Ga., March 19 (AP)—Mose Street, negro, was sentenced to die in the electric chair at Milledgeville on April 23 by Judge Rourke in superior court tonight shortly after a jury returned a verdict of guilty with no recommendation for mercy on a charge of murder of Policeman James E. Roughen. The jury was out one hour and 35 minutes.

Trial of the case took up the entire day. The state was assisted by Aaron Kravitch, attorney, who was employed by a group of prominent Negroes as expression of their desire that justice be done. Street denied that he shot the policeman, stating the officer was shot by Charles Ellis, but Ellis and two other Negroes took the stand and pointed out Street as the slayer. The killing took place in the historic "Magazine" section at 2:30 a. m., on Dec. 22.

The slain policeman left a widow, six daughters and one son for whom a fund of more than \$3,000 was raised by the Morning News and Evening Press.

Ellis was indicted in the same case, but indications tonight were that he would not be put on trial.

DEATH 'MISADVENTURE,' SAYS CORONER'S JURY

WAYCROSS, Ga., March 16 (AP)—A coroner's jury found Isaiah Miles, negro, died to his death "by misadventure" as the result of being shot by Dr. R. B. McIntyre, who believed the negro was a prisoner trying to escape from an officer.

A deputy sheriff was escorting the negro to the city morgue when he struck the deputy in the face and ran. Dr. McIntyre, who witnessed the incident, shot him.

DOUBLE KILLING EVIDENCE HEARD

Manslaughter Is Charged by Jury to White Victim and His Negro Slayer

After being deadlocked for about two hours, a coroner's jury early last night returned a verdict holding that James Lester, Short street, Negro, was guilty of voluntary manslaughter in the shooting of William George Cranford, 46, 246 Willingham street, a white man.

A few minutes after reaching this decision the jury, using the testimony of the same witnesses, found that Louise Lester, Negress, wife of James Lester, came to her death as a result of voluntary manslaughter on the part of Cranford.

More than a half dozen witnesses testified as to the double shooting at Short and Jordan streets in East Macon Sunday afternoon. The inquest over Mr. Cranford's body was held at Pitts' mortuary and the inquest over the Negress was at Hutchings' funeral home.

The testimony showed that Mr. Cranford opened fire on James Lester and Denny Wilder, Negroes, and that Lester's wife, who ran from the front of her home, got in the line of fire and was killed.

A street brawl ensued in which many Negroes were said to have jumped on Mr. Cranford and his son, Buford Cranford, 25. On the arrival of a crowd, including many white persons, the Negroes got offguing. The women said that the of the white men, who were in a ditch, and fled, witnesses said. As the son was leading the elder Cranford home, James Lester came from behind a house and fired three shots at the father, several of the witnesses testified. One shot took effect, entering the right shoulder, severing a large artery, and causing death.

The Lester woman, who was an expectant mother, had been ill in her home, but was aroused when she heard her husband's voice, they said. She ran from the home "to call her husband in," when the first shooting started, the witnesses declared. She was in the line of fire and was heard to scream and to hold her side. She was carried into the house, where it was found she was shot.

Several minutes passed before the shooting of Cranford, but witnesses varied greatly in their accounts of what happened in the interval. Practically all agreed, however, that the shooting climaxed an "argument" that had been in progress for several

Evidence Conflicts
The evidence was sharply conflicting in many points, the version given by Negro residents being different in many material points to the account related by the white witnesses.

Lester's wife was killed by a bullet that struck her left arm and passed through her body.

Both Mr. Cranford and his son had been drinking, it was stated, and the shooting climaxed an "argument" that had been in progress for several

minutes between the white men and the Negroes.

Wilder, Lester's companion, was summoned to testify but he did not appear at the inquest. Lester and Wilder disappeared after the shooting and Lester had not been apprehended last night.

The two white men were walking on Short street, followed by the two Negroes, and "words" passed between them, nearly all of the Negro witnesses agreed.

Young Cranford said that Wilder cursed them and that the four were engaged in a hand-to-hand fighting when several other Negroes joined in, some holding the arms of the Cranfords while the others beat them. Lester, he said, pulled out a pistol which the elder Cranford carried beneath his shirt, and that in the scuffle the gun was fired.

Promised to Go Home
He said he "begged" the Negroes to let his father "get up" and promised to take him home.

"I asked Lester to empty the pistol and return the gun to me and told him that I would take my father home peaceably," the young man stated. "Lester wouldn't do it and said 'I'm going to use this gun to drop him'."

As the two started away they had walked several steps in Jordan street when Lester opened fire. His father fell dead, young Cranford declared. He said he did not see Lester's wife "or see anyone shoot her."

"There were 15 or 20 Negro men and women crowded about us and she might have been one of them," he stated. "The only way I can account for her being shot was that she was hit by some of the bullets fired in the scuffle."

Two Negro women, Bertha Brown and Agnes Thomas, denied that there "was a big fight while we were looking." They said that they saw the Cranfords walking on the street with Lester and Wilder following a crowd, including many white persons, the Negroes got offguing. The women said that the of the white men, who were in a ditch, and fled, witnesses said. As the son was leading the elder Cranford home, James Lester came from behind a house and fired three shots at the father, several of the witnesses testified. One shot took effect, entering the right shoulder, severing a large artery, and causing death.

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Empty Cartridges Found
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Cranford was leaving the scene with his son when Lester suddenly opened fire.

Police Lieutenant E. C. McGhee testified that he found "five or six" empty cartridges of .38 calibre at the scene of the shootings, and other witnesses told of the finding of one .38 unexploded bullet. It was believed that Cranford's gun held only five cartridges and the theory was advanced that someone had reloaded the gun.

Detective E. L. Foster said that it was well established that the Cranfords and others had been "drinking heavily." Young Cranford admitted that his father had purchased whisky at the home of Bubber Ross, Negro, a short distance from the scene of the two killings. He denied, however, that either he or his father were drunk.

The white witnesses included John Dukes and John Curtis, who lived about 300 yards from the scene of the shootings. They testified as to the fight between the Negroes and white men, preceding the shooting of Cranford.

Funeral services for Mr. Cranford were held at Pitts' mortuary yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock, conducted by Rev. C. W. Stitt, pastor of the East Side Baptist church. Interment took place in Fort Hill cemetery.

Pallbearers were Clarence Hall, Percy Redd, A. L. Watson, Howard McCullar, S. L. Dixon and N. I. Booth.

Mr. Cranford is survived by his wife, who was Miss Jewel Dixon, of Cordele; two sons, Buford and W. G. Cranford, Jr., of Macon; three daughters, Mrs. Walter Brown and Misses Velma and Joyce Cranford, of Macon; three sisters, Mrs. Fannie Simmons, of Macon; Mrs. Loal Jones and Mrs. Beatrice Crozier, Cordele; three brothers, Frank Cranford, Macon; Henry Cranford, of Dudley, and Smith Cranford, of Lenox, and one grandchild.

NEGRO SLAYER HELD AT DONALDSONVILLE

DONALDSONVILLE, Ga., March 15.—(P)—Sheriff C. E. Barefield today said he had in custody a negro booked as Willie Trambell, for whom rewards of \$200 had been offered following the slaying January 20 of George Brown, prominent negro here. Sheriff Barefield said the prisoner was turned over to him by Andrew Lynn, of Seminole county. Officer Barefield said the negro confessed committing the crime.

CORDELE POLICEMAN IS SHOT BY NEGRO

CORDELE, Ga., March 20.—(P)—J. D. Mallard, Cordele policeman, was shot and wounded critically today when he attempted to stop a negro named Hausabrook, who was

wounded by Mallard after the officer had been shot.

Atlanta, Ga. —

Mallard accosted the negro and questioned him about a sack he was carrying. He said Hausabrook opened fire on him, the bullet striking the officer near the heart.

After falling to the ground, Mallard pulled his own gun and shot the negro through the leg and right eye. Hausabrook later was captured and placed in jail.

NEGRO IN HANNA

CASE SHOT DEAD

Telegraph

Man Held by Thomas Sheriff in Extortion Plot Is Killed in Attempted Jail-Break

3-28-34

THOMASVILLE, Ga., March 27 (AP) — Hansell Wilson, Negro suspect in the plot to extort \$10,000 from Howard M. Hanna, Cleveland financier, was shot to death in the jail yard here tonight while attempting to escape.

Macon, Ga. —

Officers had just completed questioning of the Negro and he was being taken to his cell on the second floor by Jailer W. I. Carter. At the top of the steps the Negro grabbed the jailer and after a tussle, the suspect broke loose and ran. The jailer fired at the fleeing Negro five times and three of the shots took effect, in the leg and both arms.

The Negro ran down to the ground floor and tried to get out of several doors and there the jailer caught him but the Negro broke loose again and ran out through another door into the jail yard. The jailer drew a larger pistol from another pocket and shot at the Negro with fatal effect. The bullet came out of the right breast of the Negro and he died instantly.

Sheriff G. E. Davis said tonight that he was positive the Negro was the one who picked up the dummy package which was placed as a decoy. The sheriff said he was also positive that a white man was behind the scheme to extort money from Mr. Hanna. The officer said that he was sure the person or persons involved were local people.

During the questioning the Negro at one time told officers that he had been put up to the extortion play by white men but later he retracted this. He never named the men.

Others Are Suspected

At another time, he told the officers that he was the one who got the dummy package which was placed as a decoy last night. Later he retracted this also and said that he knew nothing of the plot against Mr. Hanna.

The Negro's body was removed to an undertaking establishment.

The Negro had been arrested earlier in the day by officers who suspected him of complicity in the plot against Mr. Hanna.

hoping to learn from him the person or persons who were responsible for the death rate in 1932.

Atlanta, Ga. —

Mr. Hanna maintains a winter home within six miles of the city.

Authorities thought the Negro may have been a messenger and they sought to find from him who was responsible for sending a Negro to a quiet road at the edge of the city last night to obtain a package which had been tossed from an automobile as a decoy by the Hanna chauffeur.

ATLANTA KILLINGS

INCREASE IN 1933

Constitution

Death Rate Rises, But City's Rank in U. S. Drops Three Places.

4-12-34

Second in 1932 in the number of homicides per 100,000 population, Atlanta in 1933 had an increase in deaths but is now ranked fifth in the country, it was announced Wednesday.

The city in 1933 had a death rate of 47.6 homicides per 100,000 population, which represents a gain of 7.9 per 100,000 persons over 1932.

Outranking Atlanta are Lexington, Ky., first with 59.5; Little Rock, Ark., with 52.5; Memphis, Tenn., with 50.8; Birmingham, Ala., with 49.5; Atlanta; and then Jacksonville, Fla., with 47.4; Macon, Ga., with 44.4; Montgomery, Ala., 41.5; Savannah, Ga., 39.7; followed by Nashville, Tenn., Mobile, Ala., St. Louis, Ill., and Charleston, S. C.

The figures were released Wednesday by Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman, noted statistician, who compiled the homicide record for the United States for The Spectator. Georgia and Alabama are the only two states having three cities with more than 30 homicides per 100,000 population.

Backswing of Morals.

John McClelland, solicitor of the criminal court of Atlanta, attributed the increase of homicides here to a general backswing of morals over the entire country.

"A primary cause is that people everywhere are less moral than formerly and the pendulum is swinging still farther," the solicitor said.

Dr. Hoffman, who compiled his figures from the records of 180 of the larger cities in the United States, says there are three outstanding factors for the increase in crime generally in the country—possession of dangerous weapons, morbid crime literature, and long-drawn-out criminal trials.

"There has been an increase in the homicide death rate from 5.01 in 1900 to 10.7 per 100,000 population in 1933 for the entire country," Dr. Hoffman asserted. Compare this with

the fact that England's homicide death rate is 0.5.

In 1932 a total of 122 homicides occurred in Atlanta and 154 in 1933. There were only 186 deaths in all of England and Wales in 1932.

"Because deadly weapons are so commonly carried in the south, the death rate is higher than in the north. Only one northern city had more than 30 homicides per 100,000 population last year," Dr. Hoffman said.

Crime Literature Hit.

"Our newsstands are covered with cheap crime and detective literature which materially aids in lowering the standard of morality of the people. Also, murderers, even though often eventually convicted, succeed in having their trials so long drawn out that the good effect of swift justice is entirely lost," he asserted.

"No one is safe," he said. "From the highest to the lowest, the danger is ever present. Witness the murder of Mayor Anton Cermak and the attempt on the life of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Annually in the United States between 11,000 and 12,000 persons are murdered which makes our country the bloodiest in the world in this respect."

OUR HOMICIDE RECORD.

As has been the case in previous years, southern cities are shown in compilations recently released to have led the country in 1933 in the number of homicides per 100,000 population, Atlanta ranking fifth among all the cities of the country, as against second for 1932.

Despite the decrease in rank, with four instead of one city having a worse record in the number of violent killings, murders increased in Atlanta from 122, or 39.7 per 100,000 population, in 1932, to 154, or 47.6 per 100,000, during 1933.

Chicago, almost 10 times as large as Atlanta, and with the worst crime conditions in the country, has only three times as many homicides, her rate being only 14.2 per 100,000 population. Such cities as New York, Los Angeles, Detroit and Philadelphia all have rates of approximately 7 per 100,000, which is also the rate of most of the cities of Atlanta's size in the country. The average for the country is 10.7.

Further illustration of the extent to which life is violently taken in the United States is shown by the fact that the homicides in the 14 largest cities of Canada, with a combined population of 2,750,000, totaled less than a third of those in Atlanta alone.

The predominance of homicides in the south as against the other sections of the country is attrib-

utable to the large negro population in this section, but the murders committed in every class of our population are a humiliating indication of the lack of respect for law and for its enforcement agencies in the United States as compared to that existing in other well-governed countries.

Back of this record, and largely responsible for the willingness of so large a per cent of our people to take the law into their own hands, is the inefficiency of our courts, and the long delays marking the administration of justice.

When a man commits murder in England, or any of its dominions, or in the continental European nations, he finds the road to the gallows or the guillotine a short and certain one. Just the opposite is true in this country.

When the processes of our courts are speeded up, we will see a sharp falling off in homicides, and in all other types of crime, but it is useless to expect it under present conditions.

Two Whites Confess To Crime for Which Negro Was Killed

Negro Worker Had Been Shot "While Trying to Escape"

4-14-34

THOMASVILLE, Ga., April 16.—

An enlightening sequel to the wanton murder of a Negro worker by local sheriff deputies three weeks ago was furnished today with the arrest of two white men who are reported to have confessed to the crime with which the Negro was charged.

The Negro worker was arrested on "suspicion" of attempting to extort \$110,000 from M. Hanna, Cleveland financier, at his luxurious winter home in this town. The innocent Negro worker was subjected to a fusillade of bullets before his arrest and subsequently shot down in the prison yard on the pretext of "attempting to escape." The two white men now charged with the crime for which the Negro was framed are J. E. Pullian and Emory Callahan.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

April 14, 1934

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Killings-1934

Georgia

Hughes Slaying Laid To Negro by Coroner

Augusta, Ga. Herald
January 28, 1934

THE current flareup in regard to the killing of three Negroes in the lower part of Jefferson County will probably lead some people to attribute views to me that are not true. This being the case it is well to put in

print just what I do believe on the subject, what is my mental and spiritual attitude towards the Negro race.

There has been some editorial criticism because the matter was given to New York publications. The fact is that the story was offered to the Georgia press and it was turned down. It was turned down in New York by the Associated Press.

Why did I turn the light on the bad state of affairs in my home county? Light cures. The things that have been done are wrong and wrong grows unless the light, the curative principle of light, is called into play. As a matter of fact what is done in some communities of the South is indeed more harmful to the white people who participate than is done to the Negroes who are lynched. It is far better to be killed illegally than it is to be a party to illegal killing. We are coming into a new world and in that new world justice must be done to every human being regardless of race or color. I turned the light on conditions in my home county to save society.

I do not believe in miscegenation. I think the racial blood streams should not be mixed. It may be that my views on this subject are wrong. Some prominent sociologists think that the future American will be neither black nor white. They may be right, but I hope they are wrong.

I do not think that the Southern people should turn over to Northern people the high duty of seeing that the humblest citizen, be he white or black, is treated fairly in our courts. As a matter of fact I think the I. L. D. made serious mistakes in the Scottsboro case. I hope the organization will realize that the communities in the South ought to do their own house cleaning. We ought to do our own house cleaning and we are in the process of making up our mind to do that very thing.

The press of the South can aid greatly in this process if the custom of placing the onus of lawlessness on the Negro race is avoided. News ought to be both fair and fearless. I do not think this ideal condition has yet been attained. I think that courts ought to be impartial in dealing with offenders. This ideal condition has not been attained in many courts.

There is no excuse for unfair treatment of Negroes in the courts of the South. The courts are completely under the control of white people. We have white men on the judges' benches, we have white men in the jury boxes, white men have the whole machinery of law making and of law execution in their own hands. This being true, if for no higher reason, we ought to see that a helpless racial minority receives fair treatment.

I am certain that the partiality of newspapers and courts is doing the white people of the South incalculable harm. A great many reckless people knowing the partiality of the courts run amuck. If it were not for the fact that justice is administered with an uneven hand a great many crimes would not be committed. The truth is that injustice in the courts is leading young white men to the commission of crime.

This is my creed on the Negro question. If anyone else will suggest a better creed I will gladly discard mine.



Mrs. Samuel Hughes and her husband, whose decomposed bodies were found near Greenville Sunday, are shown above. Joe Tucker, a negro, Monday was charged with the slaying by a coroner's jury sitting at Greenville. The negro is confined in the Newnan jail.

GREENVILLE, Ga., July 9.—(AP) A coroner's jury today ordered the slaying of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hughes, whose decomposed bodies were found near here yesterday.

Tucker, 33, negro, held for the slaying of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hughes, whose decomposed bodies were found near here yesterday.

The bodies of Hughes and his wife, aged about 53 and 50, respectively, were found by a searching party in a swamp after a hunt was organized Saturday.

Mrs. Hughes was last seen alive last Monday when she left the home of her mother, Mrs. Annie E. Chapman. Later her husband went in search of her and also disappeared. Relatives at first believed the couple

had gone to visit friends and their disappearance was not reported until Saturday.

Dr. R. B. Gilbert said the bodies were so badly decomposed the exact cause of death could not be determined but he found nothing to indicate they had been shot.

Sheriff C. H. Collier expressed the opinion Mrs. Hughes was attacked and her husband killed when he went to her defense.

Mr. and Mrs. Hughes formerly lived in College Park, Ga.

Evidence at the inquest today was to the effect that the last time Mrs. Hughes was seen alive it was at Tucker's house. Tucker's wife testified her husband told her Hughes killed his wife and then himself and that he (Tucker) carried the bodies to the swamp.

LANDLORD, DEPUTY KILLED BY TENANT

Negro Is Jailed In Murder Case

Irate Renter Refuses To Allow
Ambulance To Remove
Bleeding Man

James Pearson Charged With
Slaying of Sofkee Farmer

LAFAYETTE, GA., Aug. 11.—(AP)—Two men were killed and another critically wounded at Chicomauga, Ga., today by a renter who shot his landlord to death and then killed a deputy sheriff who went to arrest him.

Only the timely arrival of Sheriff J. C. Keown saved J. L. Morrison, the tenant, from the hands of an angry crowd of several hundred persons, who armed with rifles and shotguns, were prepared to storm his home. Morrison was brought to jail here.

The dead are A. C. Abercrombie, 40, prosperous and widely known property owner, and Deputy Sheriff D. C. Alexander, 50. James Perry, a renter, was critically wounded.

Keown said witnesses told him Abercrombie, accompanied by Perry, went to Morrison's home to collect rent. As they approached Morrison came from the house with a shot gun and opened fire. Abercrombie was hit in the back and fell in the yard but Perry, though desperately wounded, was able to escape.

A crowd quickly gathered but Morrison came from his yard, the sheriff said, and drew them about 100 yards down the street at the point of his gun. Deputy Abercrombie was called, but as he stepped, unarmed, from his automobile, Morrison fired twice, both group of slugs taking effect in his chest. He died almost instantly.

Ambulances were called but Morrison refused to let them enter the yard for Abercrombie, who was apparently alive but bleeding.

Meanwhile, Sheriff Keown was called. Just before he arrived Morrison reentered his home and a relative followed him, advising him the Sheriff was there. As Keown advanced on the house, Morrison came out, both hands raised over his head.

Keown said that before his arrival several hundred persons had joined the crowd and many were armed with rifles and shotguns. They were preparing to storm Morrison's fort when the officer reached the scene.

The sheriff said Abercrombie was not killed by the first blast of the slugs but bled to death from lack of attention. Neither Abercrombie nor Perry carried arms.

Officers were not able to learn of any previous trouble between the men. In jail here Morrison refused to talk except to say that he didn't know any of the men he had shot.

James Pearson, 24-year-old Negro, was arrested yesterday by Sheriff's Deputies Oscar L. Harris and Luther J. Stevens on a charge of murder in connection with the slaying of Kinley Wallace, Sofkee Negro farmer, last Saturday afternoon.

Pearson is charged with murder in a warrant obtained by William Wallace, kinsman of the dead Negro.

At first, Floyd Pearson, brother of the man now accused, was arrested in the case, but he was released as a coroner's inquest. The officers had been hunting for James Pearson since soon after the killing.

According to the version of several witnesses, Wallace and Floyd Pearson was engaged in a knife fight as the result of an argument which climaxed a baseball game. James Pearson allegedly shot Wallace with a pistol, the bullet entering the man's abdomen and causing his death within a short time.

Negro Sentenced To Die on Oct. 5

TENNILLE, Ga., Sept. 6.—Henry Harden, Negro, who shot and killed John New, young white man of Harrison, in April, was tried for murder in Washington Superior court this week and the jury returned a verdict of guilty without recommendation, which automatically carries the death sentence.

Judge Hardeman pronounced sentence of death Wednesday, the execution to take place at the state prison farm, Milledgeville, Oct. 5.

NEGRO IDENTIFIED

AS PRISON ESCAPE

Victim of Detective's Bullet
Left Florida Gang in 1927,
Records Show

A Negro, giving his name as James Neal of "East Macon and Cordele," who is not expected to live at the Macon hospital, where he is under treatment for a pistol wound inflicted last Thursday morning by W. H. Bowden, city detective, was identified by detectives yesterday as Eddie Graham, who escaped in 1927 from a prison camp at Rayford, Fla.

t burns up land and crops, leaving practically destitute.

is a tempestuous and hard-working man who seeks to free his farm from debt and security for his children. Harassed by bitterness over his fruitless struggle and "screwed with worry," he is of his temper too easily, thus decreasing the chance of having the peace for fighting. The mother, loving and upheld by a simple faith, "an inner strength" that keeps the family together great stress. Kerrin, the eldest son, inherited her father's fiery temper. His bitterness over frustrations and his spirit, using up all her strength reasoning and rebellious hate that comes insanity. Merle, the younger consideration for others, the calm mother, and the quiet and sensitive who tells the story, form a collection of tortured personalities.

In the family, there is Grant, come to him on shares, for whom Kerrin has a passion that proves fatal. Kerrin and both in love with him, but he cares for one, giving his whole devotion to the Merle.

And of this tragic year which brings to the land, the mother's death, anxiety and suicide, and Grant's confinement, Merle and Marget are left to the debt and care for the father, old and querulous.

son shows great skill in presenting the personalities of her novel and in the interplay of human emotion. She characterizes live by a gesture, an exact attitude. Their sufferings are real. In her treatment of these and the events leading up to the tragic denouement, Miss Johnson

DOUBLE SLAYING

BLAMED ON NEGRO

Pete Swain Held in Twiggs County in Death of Man, Woman at Card Party

Joe Williams, Negro of 410 First street, East Macon, died late yesterday afternoon at the Macon hospital, the second victim of a shooting rampage in Dry Branch in Twiggs county early Sunday morning.

Sheriff Sam Kitchens of Twiggs county said last night that he was holding Pete Swain, Negro, for the fatal shooting of Williams and of Mary Roberts, Dry Branch Negress, who were killed during a card game at the Roberts' home.

The card game was the aftermath of an all-night drinking party. Sheriff Kitchens said he learned from witnesses. He declared that there would be no inquest and that Swain's case would go before the grand jury in Jeffersonville Oct. 8.

The Negress died at her home near Dry Branch almost instantly as Swain fired five shots into her body from a .32 caliber pistol. Williams was shot once through the throat.

Friends took Williams to the hospital here where he declared Sunday night that he did not know the identity of his assailant. Sheriff Kitchens took Swain into custody soon after the shooting.

The accused Negro told Sheriff Kitchens that he opened fire after the woman had bitten him on the hand and Williams had advanced on him with a knife. He bore scars on his fingers, allegedly inflicted by the Negress.

Local hospital attaches last night were seeking Williams' relatives to learn how to dispose of the body.

BURKE OFFICER SHOT

BY ESCAPING NEGRO

AUGUSTA, Ga., Sept. 25. (AP)—Wilbur Stokes, Burke county constable, who was shot and killed by a negro while attempting to jail at Waynesboro, remained in a critical condition in hospital here today.

Sheriff W. L. Herndon, at Waynesboro, said an all-night search failed to disclose the negro. He jumped from Stokes' automobile and fled after the shooting, officers said.

NEGRO IS EXECUTED

FOR SLAYING GUARD

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., Oct. 5. (AP)—A negro, John Johnson, Washington county, was executed at state prison today. Johnson was convicted of the murder of a prison guard in Washington county about eight months ago.

Georgia Negroes

Sentenced to Die

WOODBINE, Ga., Nov. 8. (AP)—A jury in Camden county superior court last night brought in first degree murder verdicts against John Henry Simmons and Tom Nelson, Negroes, charged with murder of N. K. Perry, son of Postmaster Perry of Kingsland. The Negroes were sentenced to die in the electric chair at Milledgeville Dec. 28.

The case was given to the jury just before the dinner hour and 15 minutes after returning to the courtroom a verdict was reached. Both Negroes, according to Jacksonville officers, confessed when they were arrested in that city.

They were charged with fatally parked automobile near Kingsland, wounding Perry as he sat in a car with a woman companion several weeks ago.

Negro's Clemency

Plea Is Presented

ATLANTA, Nov. 5. (AP)—Presenting the recommendation of nine trial jurors that Mose Street, Savannah Negro, not be electrocuted for the slaying of a Savannah policeman, Edwin J. Feller appealed to the prison commission today to commute Street's sentence to life imprisonment. 10/6/34

Street is under sentence to die in the electric chair Nov. 15 for the killing of Policeman J. E. Roughen.

Opposition to clemency was expressed before the commission by Andrew J. Ryan, Jr., assistant solicitor general, who said that the trial jury, the presiding judge and

Georgia Posses Hunt Escaped Lifer, 'Turned Up' by Governor as Slayer

Searching parties scoured north Georgia Thursday seeking a trace of the 21-year-old fugitive, DeLoe Clements, who fled Wednesday night from the Cobb county prison where he was serving a life sentence for murder. Friends of the boy's father, John Henry Clements, of Scotland, Ga., recalled that although the elder Clements and Governor Eugene Talmadge are the closest of personal friends they have never mentioned clemency for the youth.

Incidentally, Governor Talmadge who obtained from Clements an admission of the crime for which he was imprisoned. Young Clements plotted the death of Luther Clegg, Scotland merchant, in April, 1931, and shared in \$370 which two negroes who committed the actual slaying took from the body of the murdered man.

It was recalled that young Clements came to Atlanta immediately after the killing and visited the Talmadge home, then on Oxford road. The governor, having heard of the Clegg murder, became suspicious of the youth's actions and questioned him about it, one question bringing on another until Clements finally admitted engineering the murder.

The governor communicated with his friend in Scotland and turned the youth over to authorities. He pleaded guilty to participation in the crime and was given a life sentence. At the time of the killing, the boy's father was Telfair county's representative in the legislature.

Since the governor's inauguration, Mr. Clements and Talmadge have visited time and again at each other's homes, both being deeply interested in live stock, but it was said Thursday that both always strictly avoided ever mentioning the young slayer.

Clements, in company with another life-terminer, escaped from the Cobb county prison in a truck which the youth drove about the camp. They were reported seen near Cartersville early Thursday morning and the search for them was being concentrated around Bartow county Thursday night.

Killings-1934

Georgia.

NEGRO IS DYING AFTER SHOOTING

Deputy Sheriff Fires Five Shots
as Man Resists Arrest Near
Lizella

Sook Jackson, Negro sawmill worker of Lizella, was reported dying in the Macon hospital early this morning as the result of five gun shot wounds which Deputy Sheriff Romas Raley said were necessary to subdue him as he pointed a pistol at the deputy and an aide during a scuffle at Lizella early last night.

Called to Lizella about 5 p. m. yesterday to investigate alleged rowdiness of John Jackson, brother of the wounded Negro, allegedly creating a disturbance in front of Charlie Sanders store, Mr. Raley and George Dickson, county employe, arrived to find things quieted down, but rode about the vicinity looking for Jackson, the deputy said.

On a side road about 200 yards from the store, the officers drove up to two Negroes, one of which was Sook Jackson. While the other Negro ran, Jackson grabbed at a shotgun in the car, according to Mr. Raley, but was overpowered by Dickson who held him momentarily.

First Shot in Face

The deputy said Jackson then broke away and whirled toward him with a .32 Smith and Wesson in his hand. To protect himself, Mr. Raley said he fired, striking Jackson just under the left eye, turning him around. Four other shots were sent into Jackson's body as he started running, the gun in hand, the officer said.

After running 30 or 35 yards, Jackson stumbled and threw the pistol toward a woman whom Mr. Raley said was mother of the Jackson boys. After warning the Negroess against picking up the gun, the officer said he examined it and found five cartridges in the magazine.

Jackson was immediately rushed to the Macon hospital but attaches said early this morning he was not expected to live through the night. They said his condition was too poor to permit an operation. Mr. Raley said deputies would continue to seek John Jackson who assertedly was creating the original disturbance.

The deputy was unable to account for Sook Jackson's sudden attempt to seize the officers' shotgun, he said.

NEGRO IS GIVEN LIFE FOR PART IN HOLDUP

Andrew Bostic, negro, was sentenced to life imprisonment Tuesday by Judge G. H. Howard in Fulton superior court when a jury returned a consent verdict of guilty of the murder of George Gadlin, a street merchant, May 12, 1933. Floyd South, Bostic's alleged accomplice in an attempted holdup in which Gadlin was shot and killed, was electrocuted several weeks ago.

DEPUTY ABSOLVED IN NEGRO'S DEATH

Justifiable Homicide Verdict
Given; Victim Shot Six Times
by Two Men

The death of Anthony (Sook) Jackson, Negro sawmill worker, who was fatally shot by a county officer, Romas Raley, late Sunday near Lizella, was "justifiable homicide performed in the line of duty" according to the verdict of a coroner's jury meeting yesterday afternoon.

Jackson died early yesterday morning at the Macon hospital where he was taken by Officer Raley and J. C. Calhoun, Raley's companion in the investigation that led to the shooting. Jackson succumbed to the shot wounds, inflicted by Raley, and one discharge of buckshot, fired from a shotgun by Calhoun. Physicians held no hope for his recovery from the first.

Raley, Calhoun and George Dixon, Negro helper in the sheriff's office, drove out to Lizella in answer to a call to the effect that John Jackson, Negro, was creating a disturbance.

The officer did not find the Negro when he arrived, he testified, but started a search for him. He soon found Anthony Jackson, a brother, on a side road.

Negro Snatched at Gun

He further reported that the Negro attempted to snatch a shot gun from his car and that Dixon grappled with Jackson after grabbing him around the waist from the rear.

Then it was, the trio testified, that the Negro went for his .32 calibre pistol. He ran after drawing his pistol and, as he ran, Raley emptied his revolver at the Negro, each shot taking effect.

As the Negro continued to run under the load of the five pistol shots, Calhoun is said to have fired

the shotgun to bring him down. Then the trio took the dying Negro in their car and drove him to the Macon hospital.

John Jackson, protagonist in the fatal investigation, still had not been apprehended last night. His brother's pistol contained five cartridges when officers took it from him.

NEGRO SHOT IN BATTLE.

Fire Ends Georgia Barricade After
Dynamite, Gas, Bullets Fail.

NICHOLLS, Ga., Dec. 25 (AP).—Against bullets, dynamite and tear gas, an armed Negro held a log smokehouse for three and a half hours today as officers sought to arrest him for fighting. He was shot and captured only when the structure was burned.

The Negro produced a gun and fled when approached by Chief of Police Warren Davis today. Obtaining a shotgun, he barricaded himself in the smokehouse.

Two charges of dynamite were hurled at the building without effect and bullets and tear gas failed to oust the occupant. Sheriff Courson of Bacon county was wounded in the arm by a shot from the house.

Finally, when the place was set fire, the Negro emerged, shooting as he ran. Officers shot him down.

Killings-1934

NEGRO DEATHS IN JEFFERSON INVESTIGATED

Telegraph
Macon, Ga.
Interracial Commission Finds
Negroes Are 'Living in
State of Fear'

SHERIFF SMITH UPHELD

Killings, Whippings Are Recited
in Bartow Trouble; Ac-
tion Is Asked

ATLANTA, Jan. 30 (P)—The In-
terracial Commission said in a
statement here today that Negroes
in Jefferson county at Bartow "are
living in a state of fear" following
recent killings and beatings of mem-
bers of their race in that section.

The commission, which is com-
posed of leading white and Negro
citizens of the South, joined in a
demand for an investigation, it said,
"after a careful investigation of the
conditions in that community con-
ducted by Dr. Arthur Raper, of
the commission's research staff."

At Louisville, Ga., the county seat,
Superior Court Judge R. N. Harde-
man said today he would follow any
recommendations made by Solicitor
General Marvin Gross.

The commission in its statement
said "the sheriff of Jefferson county
is wholly right in demanding an im-
mediate investigation of recent kill-
ings and beatings of Negroes in and
around Bartow."

To Summon Caldwell

The present agitation is for a spe-
cial session of the grand jury which
otherwise would not meet until May.
Solicitor General Gross has already
said that the entire matter would
be laid before the grand jury in
May and that he would summon
Erskine Caldwell, Southern author,
who charged that the Negroes had
been killed by white men.

"Since the middle of November,"
said the commission's statement,
"three Negroes have been killed,
two others have been severely beat-
en and a material witness to two of
these affairs has been run out of
town. The two who were beaten
are now in jail, one of them under

indictment for assault and battery.
Meantime, though the identity of
white participants in these affairs is
well known, not one of them has
been indicted, or even put under ar-
rest. In view of these facts, the
sheriff is quite right in demanding
an investigation and in offering to
put evidence before the grand jury."
"The roll of recent Negro victims
is as follows: Will Walker, killed
by the town marshal of Bartow on
the night of Nov. 19; Belvin Wil-
liams, severely beaten by a group
of white men on the same evening;
Ernest Bell, killed and thrown into
a well on the night of Dec. 31; Sam
Outler, severely beaten on the same
night; and an unidentified Negro
found dead on the roadside ten days
later. Further back, in September,
1932, there were two floggings of
Negroes, in one of which a girl, ac-
cused of stealing clothes, was the
victim."

"The trouble in November grew out
of a drinking party involving Wil-
liams, Walker and a number of
drunken white men. When the
marshal attempted to arrest Walker,
each shot the other, the marshal be-
ing wounded seriously and Walker
fatally. Williams was severely beat-
en by the group with whom he had
been drinking and except for the ar-
rest of county officers, could most
likely have been killed."

"The killing and flogging on the
night of December 31st also grew
out of a drinking party involving
the Negroes' car in search of boot-
leg whisky. The next morning the
body of one of the Negroes was
found in the well and the other was
at his mother's home suffering from
a severe beating."

"Since these tragedies so far have
gone unchallenged by the courts and
the white citizenship, the Negroes
of the community are living in a
state of fear, so much so that a Ne-
gro night school at Bartow has been
virtually abandoned and night
church attendance has been reduced
almost to the vanishing point. Ne-
groes feel little assurance of protec-
tion at the hands either of the law
or of their white neighbors. The of-
ficers and courts are culpable in that
so far they have taken no steps to
investigate these crimes and bring
the guilty to justice, and the law-
abiding citizens cannot be excused
for permitting a few irresponsibles
to terrorize the Negro population
with impunity. Vigorous legal steps
are imperatively demanded by the
circumstances, and the citizenship of
the community should follow the
sheriff's leadership and see that this
demand is met promptly and honest-
ly by the courts."

"The reported burning of fourteen
homes was found to be true, but all
were owned by white people, all
were vacant at the time and all were
insured. Furthermore, these burn-
ings began in 1929, and one has oc-
curred since the recent interracial
troubles broke out last November."

RACES

Terror? Tumble-Bug?

The seat of Jefferson County is Louis-
ville (pop. 1,650) which was the capital of
Georgia from 1795 to 1895. In the center
of the town's old-fashioned Common still
stands the roofed block on which until 70
years ago slaves were sold at auction.
Above the block hangs the bell that sum-
moned buyers and sellers of black flesh
from the surrounding countryside. Last
week, for the first time in years, proud
little Louisville (pronounced Lewisville)
found itself in the bright beam of national
news.

The Interracial Commission, composed
of leading white and Negro citizens of the
South, issued a report on Jefferson
County:

"Since the middle of November, three
Negroes have been killed, two others have
been severely beaten and a material wit-
ness to two of these affairs has been run
out of town. The two who were beaten
are now in jail, one of them under indict-
ment for assault and battery."

"Meanwhile, though the identity of white
participants in these affairs is well known,
not one of them has been indicted, or even
put under arrest."

Fortnight earlier Erskine Caldwell,
Georgia-born author, who wrote *Tobacco
Road* and *God's Little Acre*, novels deal-
ing with the mudsills of Georgia's white
society, started the rumpus by writing an
article for the Communist *New Masses*,
relating much the same facts, charging
that a reign of terror for Negroes was
afoot, and adding:

"The weekly newspapers of this county,
in which are located the towns of Bartow,
Louisville, Wadley and Wrens, have made
no mention of the deaths of these men.
The daily papers of the state have failed
to report the actions of the mob, and the
news-gathering agencies have made no ef-
fort to report the situation to their mem-
bers in other states. No local correspond-
ents for the dailies can be found who have
made reports, perhaps because of a rule in
the book of instructions sent to local cor-
respondents by the daily newspapers of
Georgia: *If a white man is murdered,*
telegraph it in; if a Negro is murdered,
mail it in."

As usual, these charges stirred Georgia
to resentment against outside criticism of
its race relations rather than to clean-up
action. Said the *Atlanta Constitution*:
"There are no better people in Georgia or
in any other state than those . . . in Jef-
ferson County. . . There should be some way
to protect such communities from the
calumny of literary tumble-bugs. . ."

Said Sheriff J. J. Smith of Jefferson

County: "I will not confirm anything but
I will say this: the affair looks powerful
bad. . . Somebody is trying to cover
something up."

Said Louisville's Superior Judge R. N.
Hardeman: "This is no racial disturbance.
There never has been."

Said Georgia's Solicitor-General Marvin
Gross, who refused to call a special grand
jury to investigate: "I know Erskine Cald-
well personally. He is just a fellow who
likes to talk. . . The killings which
Caldwell has related are nothing out of the
ordinary."

Meantime Florida did not take her own
race problem so coolly. Near Tampa,
Robert Johnson, a Negro, was arrested on
suspicion of having attempted to attack a
white woman and was charged with
chicken stealing. The local constable
picked the hour of 2:30 a. m. to take Pris-
oner Johnson by automobile from the
Tampa city jail to the county jail. On the
way Johnson was snatched out of the car,
carried off and shot.

Governor David Scholtz promptly wired
the county sheriff: "I have just been in-
formed of lynching of Robert Johnson,
Negro, in your county today but have no
report from you. We do not condone the
crime of lynching in Florida." The Asso-
ciation of Southern Women for the Pre-
vention of Lynching wired the Governor:
"Last Thursday you assured a commit-
tee . . . that while you are Governor of
Florida, there would be no lynching if you
had two hours to get troops to the scene.
At 3 o'clock this morning there was
a lynching in Tampa."

ATLANTA, GA. CONSTITUTION

JAN 31 1934

GROUP ASKS PROBE OF NEGRO KILLINGS

Interracial Body Says Negroes in Jefferson 'Live in State of Fear.'

The interracial commission said in
a statement here Tuesday that ne-
groes in Jefferson county at Bartow
"are living in a state of fear" follow-
ing recent killings and beatings of
members of their race in that section.



Ben Pinchot

GEORGIA'S CALDWELL

"Weekly newspapers made no mention
of daily papers failed to report"

The commission, which is composed
of leading white and negro citizens of
the south, joined in a demand for an
investigation, it said, "after careful
investigation of the conditions in that
community conducted by Dr. Arthur
Raper, of the commission's research
staff."

At Louisville, the county seat, Su-
perior Court Judge R. N. Hardeman
said Tuesday he would follow any
recommendations made by Solicitor-
General Marvin Gross.

The commission in its statement
said "the sheriff of Jefferson county
is wholly right in demanding an im-
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ings and beatings of negroes in and
around Bartow."

The present agitation is for a spe-
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otherwise would not meet until May.
Solicitor-General Gross has already
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Caldwell, southern author, who
charged that the negroes had been
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The two who were beaten are now
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pants in these affairs is well known,
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by the town marshal of Bartow on the night of November 19; Belvin Williams, severely beaten by a group of white men on the same evening; Ernest Bell, killed and thrown into a well on the night of December 31; am Outler, severely beaten on the same night, and an unidentified negro, found dead on the roadside 10 days later. Further back, in September, 1932, there were two floggings of negroes, in one of which a girl, accused of stealing clothes, was the victim.

"The trouble in November grew out of a drinking party involving Williams, Walker and a number of drunken white men. When the marshal attempted to arrest Walker each shot the other, the marshal being wounded seriously and Walker fatally. Williams was severely beaten by the group with whom he had been drinking and except for the arrival of county officers would most likely have been killed.

"The killing and flogging on the night of December 31 also grew out of a drinking party involving two negroes and two white boys, going together in the negroes' car in search of bootleg whisky. The next morning the body of one of the negroes was found in the well and the other was at his mother's home suffering from a severe beating.

"Since these tragedies so far have gone unchallenged by the courts and the white citizenship, the negroes of the community are living in a state of fear, so much so that a negro night school at Bartow has been virtually abandoned and night church attendance has been reduced almost to the vanishing point. Negroes feel little assurance of protection at the hands either of the law or of their white neighbors. The officers and courts are culpable in that so far they have taken no steps to investigate these crimes and bring the guilty to justice, and the law-abiding citizens cannot be excused for permitting a few irresponsible to terrorize the negro population with impunity. Vigorous legal steps are imperatively demanded by the circumstances, and the citizenship of the community should follow the sheriff's leadership and see that this demand is met promptly and honestly by the courts.

"The reported burning of 14 homes was found to be true, but all were owned by white people, all were vacant at the time and all were insured. Furthermore, these burnings began in 1929, and none has occurred since the recent interracial troubles broke out last November."

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

AGE HERALD

FEB 1 1934

Anarchy

No thoughtful Southerner can fail to regard with dismay recent happenings which have gone far toward making a hash of sound and hopeful relations between the races. Not only do lynchings seem to be increasing at a ghastly rate, but in other ways much of the progress which had been made toward interracial understanding and good-will is being nullified. There could scarcely be a more deplorable situation, for example, that which exists in Jefferson County, Georgia, where a reign of terror has reduced the Negroes of the community to a state of utter panic.

It was Erskine Caldwell, the novelist, who has won the attention of the country with his realistic books dealing with life in Georgia, who first directed attention to conditions in or near Bartow. Then came the demand of the sheriff of Jefferson County for a special Grand Jury investigation of the murders and assaults which Mr. Caldwell had discussed. The regular Grand Jury is to meet in May. Judge Hardeeman, of that circuit, has announced that he is ready to follow the recommendations of the solicitor. The upshot is that as yet the authorities have done nothing by way of meeting the challenge of anarchy.

According to an investigation made by the interracial commission, since November three Negroes have been killed, two others severely beaten, and a material witness driven out of Bartow. "Though the identity of white participants in these affairs is well known, not one of them has been indicted, or even put under arrest," it is reported. It is not surprising that the Negroes of the community are described as "living in a state of fear" because "they feel little assurance of protection at the hands either of the law or of their white neighbors."

The report continues: "The officers and the courts are culpable in that so far they have taken no steps to investigate these crimes and bring the guilty to justice, and the law-abiding citizens cannot be excused for permitting a few irresponsibles to terrorize the Negro community with impunity. Vigorous legal steps are imperatively demanded by the circumstances, and the citizenship of the community should follow the sheriff's leadership and see that this demand is met promptly and honestly by the courts."

Though a similar situation elsewhere

in the South is not a matter of record, the fact remains that no state in this section can afford to assume an attitude of self-righteousness in this respect. It is because throughout this region, combustible material is merely awaiting the spark of some special irritation that the problem which stands out in such bold relief in Georgia is a problem confined to no particular locality. And it is on that account that the summons to civic responsibility which the interracial commission has issued must go home to the bosom of every sober and enlightened Southerner.

Greensboro, Ga., Herald-Journal
February 9, 1934

The ruthless killing of the negro at Woodville, is deplored by the best element of our county. The murderer or murderers should be apprehended and given a quick trial. A reward of \$200 for the apprehension of the alleged murderer of the negro does not appear to have gotten results.

Negro Man Killed

By Baxley Officer

BAXLEY, Ga., Feb. 19.—Willie Washington, Negro, was shot dead late last night on a street here by Night Policeman W. G. Bell. Sheriff H. L. Padgett, who made an investigation, preferred no charge against Bell, saying all the testimony indicated the policeman acted in self-defense. Bell had sought to arrest the Negro for being drunk, and the latter cursed him, placing his hand in his pocket as though to draw a weapon, witnesses said.

Negro Publisher Mysteriously Shot

ATLANTA, Feb. 7.—(AP)—W. A. Scott 31, publisher of The Atlanta Daily World, only negro daily newspaper in the United States, and head of the Scott Newspaper Syndicate which serves 30 weeklies through the country, died tonight from mysterious wounds received in the garage of his home a week ago.

A police investigation failed to throw any light on the identity of the assailants who shot the negro publisher in the back as he drove his car into the garage.

Besides The Atlanta Daily World Scott owned The Atlanta World, a weekly, and The Memphis World and Birmingham World, both published semi-weekly.

Weekly newspapers owned or controlled by the Scott Syndicate include: Forth Worth, Texas. Mind; Mobile, Ala. Sun; Montgomery, Ala. World; Nashville, Tenn., World; New Orleans Broad-cast; Voice of the Nation, Okmulgee Okla.; Hannibal, Mo., Register; Shreveport, La., Globe Dispatch, and Knoxville, Tenn., Independent.

NEGRO FOUND GUILTY IN COLUMBUS MURDER

Doomer Sentenced to Life
for Killing of John Pope,

3 Grocer 34

COLUMBUS, Ga., March 1.—(AP)—Cooper Doomer, 19-year-old negro, last night was found guilty of the murder of John Pope, local grocer, during an attempted holdup on February 19, 1933. The verdict carried with it a recommendation of mercy, and the negro was sentenced to life imprisonment by Judge C. F. McLaughlin, who presided.

The jury returned the verdict after hearing three state witnesses positively identify Doomer as the negro they saw run from the store immediately after hearing shots fired. The verdict was returned after the jury deliberated an hour and twenty minutes.

TIFTON, GA.

GAZETTE

APR 12 1934

NEGRO SLAYER CONVICTED

from The Moultrie Observer:

Ned Bishop, a Doerun negro, tried in Colquitt superior court Monday on a charge of murder in connection with the killing of Peacola Robinson, a negro woman, was convicted of involuntary manslaughter. He punishment was fixed at three years in the penitentiary, the maximum under the verdict. Bishop insisted the killing was accidental.

Walter Willias, another negro, indicted for the ice-pick murder of Emmett Hamier, pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter. He was sentenced by Judge Thomas to 12 to 15 years in the penitentiary. The case was being tried when the plea was entered.

NEGRO IS GIVEN LIFE

BY FULTON VERDICT

Recommendations of mercy saved John Houston, negro, from the electric chair after he was found guilty of the murder of Paul Stanley, another negro, on February 15 at Union City. Sentence of life imprisonment was passed by Judge James M. Maddox. Stanley was shot in the back as the climax of a domestic altercation and his body was dumped in a highway ditch half-mile from the scene, according to testimony.

Negro Is Released In Death of Thief

The shooting of Charles Daniel, Negro former convict, was found to be "justifiable homicide" by a coroner's jury at an inquest at Hubbard's funeral home yesterday morning. Daniel was shot about midnight Tuesday by Nathan Stewart, Negro, in the back yard of the Negro's home at 320 Ward street.

Stewart stated that he was aroused by the barking of a dog and when he went into the yard to investigate he found Daniel about to enter a chicken house with a large sack.

Daniel turned suddenly and fired two shots at Stewart, the latter said. Neither shot took effect. Stewart then fired six shots at Daniel, two of which entered Daniel's body. One lodged near the heart, causing death while Daniel was being carried to the Macon hospital in an ambulance.

Killing - 1934

JOHN NEW SLAIN; NEGRO IS HUNTED

Telegram
Killing in Washington County
Comes After Argument Over
Garage Bill 4-23-34

SANDERSVILLE, Ga., April 22.—Johnson county officers tonight were searching for Henry "Bud" Harden, Negro, who is alleged to have shot and killed John New, white man, at Harrison late Saturday night after an argument with New's brother, Buford, over a garage bill.

Sheriff A. W. Smith of Washington county, in which the crime was committed, returned here this afternoon after an all-night hunt for Harden that led into adjacent Johnson county where the scent was lost by track dogs.

The killing came, officers said, when Harden fired at Buford New after arguing with him, but the bullet missed him and struck John New. He died almost instantly.

Wilson Holland, Harrison officer, exchanged shots with the fleeing man, officers said.

A posse joined Sheriff Smith in the search for Harden.

Funeral services for the slain man will be held at Harrison tomorrow morning. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd New, nine brothers and three sisters.

Thomasville, Ga., Press

April 13, 1934

DISPOILER OF THE NEGRO RACE

Here is an article appearing in "The Chicago Defender" of March 31:

"GEORGIA CITIZEN KILLED TO SAVE WHITE EXTORTIONERS:

After several white men had failed to extort \$10,000 from H. M. Hanna of Thomasville, Ga., Sheriff G. E. Davis, arrested Hansell Wilson, who was nowhere near the place when the plot occurred, put in jail and had him shot to death to protect the real parties who planned the crime.

"The story sent out by these officers about Wilson attempting to get away from the jail is a lie, pure and simple. These officers know who the men are that tried to shake Mr. Hanna down, but putting it on a colored person is one of the old Southern tricks.

"They could have caught and arrested the man who picked up the package the night it was placed in the woods, but they found out that the man who picked up the bundle was a white man with his face blackened up, which made the officers put out the false statement that he got away from them.

"Hansell Wilson, was never out of his cell, he was murdered in his cell with handcuffs on, by the jailer and others. Of course, in this hell hole anything can happen to our people. No honest person who knows about conditions in this state would believe anything one of these sheriffs say in a case of this kind."

It only shows what some people stoop to do. No more infamous effort has ever been made to destroy the character of a good officer and no more fiendish attack upon a people has ever been born in the pits of hell. No more dastardly lie was ever circulated. What do our people think of this effort to array the negro citizens against the whites. The races live here on better terms than, perhaps, any other place on earth.

DR. RAPER STIRS GEORGIA FOLKS ABOUT RACE WAR

Former Arcadia Man Finds Evidence of Unpunished Killings and Beatings

Dr. Arthur Raper, native Arcadia township man, who last year wrote a book on the crime of lynching that attracted national attention, has stirred the state of Georgia with his findings on an investigation into reports that negroes are being slain and beaten in the town of Bartow, in that state, "just for the fun of it," as it were.

Recently another writer charged that a reign of terror was being conducted by whites against negroes in Bartow, and that several had been slain and badly beaten without the local authorities paying any attention to the matter. The interracial commission, with headquarters in Atlanta, sent Dr. Raper, its secretary, to the trouble zone to

conduct a research. The commission, composed of a large number of leading white and colored citizens of the South, yesterday gave out Dr. Raper's findings confirming the previous reports.

The solicitor general there announced a few days ago that he would summon the first author, Caldwell, before the regular meeting of the grand jury in Jefferson county, in which Bartow is located, in May. The district superior court judge also said he would follow the recommendation of the solicitor general. The sheriff of Jefferson county, however, has urged that an immediate investigation be made of the affair, and the commission joins this recommendation "after a careful investigation of the conditions in that community conducted by Dr. Arthur Raper of the commission's research staff."

Says Three Killed

The statement continued: "Since the middle of November three negroes were killed, two others have been severely beaten and a material witness to two of these affairs has been run out of town. The two who were beaten are now in jail, one of them under indictment for assault and battery. Meantime, though the identity of white participants in these affairs is well known, not one of them has been indicted or even put under arrest. In view of these facts, the sheriff is quite right in demanding an investigation and in offering to put evidence before the grand jury.

"The roll of recent negro victims is as follows: Will Walker, killed by the town marshal of Bartow on the night of November 19. Belvin Williams, severely beaten by a group of white men on the same evening; Ernest Bell, killed and thrown into a well on the night of December 31; Sam Outler, severely beaten on the same night, and an unidentified negro, found dead on the roadside ten days later. Further back, in September 1932, there were two floggings of negroes, in one of which a girl accused of stealing clothes was the victim.

"The trouble in November grew out of a drinking party involving Williams, Walker and a number of drunken white men. When the marshal attempted to arrest Walker each shot the other, the marshal being wounded seriously and Walker fatally. Williams was severely beaten by the group with whom he had been drinking and except for the arrival of county officers would most likely have been killed.

"The killing and flogging on the night of December 31 also grew out of a drinking party involving two

negroes and two white boys, going together in the negroes' car in search of bootleg whisky. The next morning the body of one of the negroes was found in the well and the other was at his mother's home suffering from a severe beating."

White Man Killed By Beating Negro

BAXLEY, Ga., May 7.—Wesley Holton, 37, of this county, was shot and killed Sunday afternoon near Pine Forest swimming pool this county, by Buddy Ashley, Negro.

According to information received here Nooge Ashley, Negro, brother of Buddy Ashley, was creating a disturbance and Mr. Holton rebuked him. Nooge is alleged to have resented it, and asked his brother for a pistol. Buddy is alleged to have stepped up near Mr. Holton and shot him through the neck.

The Negroes ran away from the scene of the killing, but were captured and both are being held in the Appling county jail.

Mr. Holton was buried Monday afternoon in Ten Mile Creek Baptist church cemetery, Rev. R. W. Waterman, officiating. He is survived by his widow and five children.

Uncle's Murder, Robbery Confessed by Negro Trio

Bibb Deputies Solve Mystery in Slaying; Purchase of Pistols First Clue

A Negro who Monday expressed the hope that the slayer of his uncle, Will Meadows, would be captured and sent to the electric chair has had at least part of his wish granted, for yesterday afternoon he signed a confession placing the blame for the act on his own shoulder. The Negro is Frank Eugene Hogan, 31, nephew of the slain man and member of a Negro family to which the victim made substantial contributions.

Hogan's confession came about 4 p. m. yesterday as the climax to about four days of intensive work by Sheriff's Deputies Oscar L. Harris and Luther J. Stevens, who Monday afternoon set out to solve the mystery of Meadows' death with not even so much as a track for a clew.

The story told by Hogan and two brothers, Alford Hogan, 18, and C. H. Hogan, 19, who also will be charged with murder in warrants to be issued in the case, was that of "a cold-blooded and premeditated murder," officers said.

Stolen Money Recovered

Approximately \$245 was taken from the pocket of the dead Negro,

and the deputies said yesterday afternoon that about \$170 of it, as well said the slayer went to Meadows' home as three pistols for which about \$35 Saturday morning to help repair a horse trough and a hog trough, and that while he was there Meadows decided to go into the woods to search for some posts. A son suggested that a clump of chinaberry trees would furnish good posts, and Meadows left for the swamp. Before Meadows left the house, however, Hogan said he himself hurried down into the woods, since he knew where the trees were growing, and after procuring the gun slipped up on the man and "let him have it."

On the same afternoon, according to Alford Hogan, he asked his brother, Frank, where the shotgun had been placed, and the latter said that he had the weapon out because "I've got a man on the spot."

In his confession, Frank Hogan said that he alone was responsible

Killings - 1934

JOHN NEW SLAIN; NEGRO IS HUNTED

2 days
Killing in Washington County
Comes After Argument Over
Garage Bill 4-23-34

SANDERSVILLE, Ga., April 22.—
Johnson county officers tonight
were searching for Henry "Bud"
Harden, Negro, who is alleged to
have shot and killed John New,
white man, at Harrison late Satur-
day night after an argument with
New's brother, Buford, over a ga-
rage bill.

Sheriff A. W. Smith of Washing-
ton county, in which the crime was
committed, returned here this after-
noon after an all-night hunt for been
Harden that led into adjacent John-
son county where the scent was lost
by track dogs.

The killing came, officers said,
when Harden fired at Buford New
after arguing with him, but the
bullet missed him and struck John
New. He died almost instantly.

Wilson Holland, Harrison officer,
exchanged shots with the fleeing
man, officers said.
A posse joined Sheriff Smith in
the search for Harden.
Funeral services for the slain man
will be held at Harrison tomorrow
morning. He is survived by his par-
ents, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd New, nine
brothers and three sisters.

Thomasville, Ga., Press
April 13, 1934
DISPOILER OF THE NEGRO RACE

"GEORGIA CITIZEN KILLED TO SAVE WHITE EXTORTIONERS;

After several white men had failed to ex-
tort \$10,000 from H. M. Hanna of Thom-
asville, Ga., Sheriff G. E. Davis, arrested
Hansell Wilson, who was nowhere near the
place when the plot occurred, put in jail and
had him shot to death to protect the real par-
ties who planned the crime.
"The story sent out by these officers about
Wilson attempting to get away from the jail
is a lie, pure and simple. These officers
know who the men are that tried to shake
Mr. Hanna down, but putting it on a colored
person is one of the old Southern tricks.

"They could have caught and arrested the
man who picked up the package the night it
was placed in the woods, but they found out
that the man who picked up the bundle was a
white man with his face blackened up, which
made the officers put out the false statement
that he got away from them.
"Hansell Wilson, was never out of his cell,
he was murdered in his cell with handcuffs
on, by the jailer and others. Of course, in
this hell hole anything can happen to our
people. No honest person who knows about
conditions in this state would believe any-
thing one of these sheriffs say in a case of
this kind."

It only shows what some people stoop to do in
No more infamous effort has ever been made Dr.
to destroy the character of a good officer and
no more fiendish attack upon a people has ever
been made. What do our people
think of this effort to array the negro citizens
against the whites. The races live here on better
terms than, perhaps, any other place on earth.

DR. RAPER STIRS GEORGIA FOLKS ABOUT RACE WAR

Former Arcadia Man Finds
Evidence of Unpunished
Killings and Beatings

Dr. Arthur Raper, native Arcadia
township man, who last year wrote
a book on the crime of lynching
that attracted national attention,
has stirred the state of Georgia
with his findings on an investiga-
tion into reports that negroes are
being slain and beaten in the town
of Bartow, in that state. "Just for
the fun of it," as it were.
Recently another writer charged
that a reign of terror was being
conducted by whites against negroes
in Bartow, and that several had
been slain and badly beaten without
the local authorities paying any at-
tention to the matter. The inter-
racial commission, with headquar-
ters in Atlanta, sent Dr. Raper, its
secretary, to the trouble zone to

conduct a research. The commis- negroes and two white boys, going
sion, composed of a large number together in the negroes' car in
of leading white and colored citi- search of bootleg whisky. The next
zens of the South, yesterday gave morning the body of one of the
out Dr. Raper's findings confirming negroes was found in the well and
the previous reports. the other was at his mother's home
an suffering from a severe beating."

White Man Killed By Apparent Negro

BAXLEY, Ga., May 7.—Wesley
Holton, 37, of this county, was shot
Sunday afternoon near
this
Buddy Ashely, Negro,
Buddy Ashely, Negro,
According to information
here Nooge Ashely, Negro, brother
of Buddy Ashely, Negro, re-
disturbance. Nooge is alleged to have
broke him. Nooge is alleged to
resented it, and asked his brother
for a pistol. Buddy is alleged to
have stepped up near Mr. Holton
and shot him through the neck.
The Negroes ran away from the
scene of the killing, but were cap-
tured and both are
the Appling county jail.
Mr. Holton was buried Monday
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Uncle's Murder, Robbery Confessed by Negro Trio

Slaying; Purchase of Pis-
tols First Clue
A Negro who Monday expressed
the hope that the slayer of his
uncle would be cap-
tured and sent to the electric chair
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of white men on the same evening,
Ernest Bell, killed and thrown into
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each shot the other. The marshal told by Hogan, 18, and C.
being wounded seriously and Walk- brothers, Alford Hogan, 18, and C.
er fatally. Williams was severely H. Hogan, 19, who also will be
beaten by the group with whom he charged with murder in warrants to
the arrival of county officers would "a cold-blooded and premeditated
murder," officers said.
Stolen Money Recovered
Approximately \$245 was taken
from the pocket of the dead Negro,
and the deputies said yesterday aft-
ernoon that about \$170 of it, as well
as three pistols for which about \$35
of the money was paid, had been re-
covered.
According to the story of the
three men, Frank Hogan concealed
his shotgun in the woods last Thurs-
day, so that it would be handy when
he needed it.
On the same afternoon, according
to Alford Hogan, he asked his
brother, Frank, where the shotgun
had been placed, and the latter said
that he had the weapon out because
"I've got a man on the spot."
In his confession, Frank Hogan
said that he alone was responsible

Hogan said he then took the approximately \$245 from the man's pockets, later that morning met his two brothers in Macon and divided the loot.

Brothers Get Part

In their statements, Alford said he received \$45 and C. H. said he was given \$40.

With their money, the three went to a local pawn shop and purchased a pistol each. Frank Hogan is said to have remarked to his brothers that "my working days are over."

C. H. Hogan was the first questioned, and after denying all knowledge of the crime for a time, finally showed the officers where his pistol was hidden.

Confronted with the gun which his brother had purchased, Alford Hogan admitted knowledge of the crime, told of having asked his brother, Frank, about the shotgun, and then went with the officers and showed them where he had hidden his pistol under a clump of bushes and where he had buried \$21 remaining of the \$45 given him, near a stump.

C. H. Hogan, who at first had denied obtaining any of the money, then went with the officers to the home of a Negress at Moran, where, he said, he had carried the cash for safe-keeping after having been advised by Frank Hogan to do so.

With the statements from his two brothers confronting him, Frank Hogan admitted his guilt yesterday afternoon. He assisted the officers in locating the \$130 remaining from his share of the loot and also showed them where his pistol was hidden.

Suspicion was directed toward the Hogan Negroes by bits of information picked up by the officers here and there, but the first big "break" in the case was the discovery that the three had purchased pistols.

Ed Causey, also a Negro, who was arrested as a suspect in the case Monday, was freed yesterday. The Hogan Negroes attempted to place the blame for the killing on him, at first, the officers said, since Causey is said by the officers to have "run off" with Meadows' wife a year or two ago.

Frank Alford was the Negro who guided Mr. Stevens, Sheriff's Deputy Arnold Long and Earl O. Moseley to the body of his uncle after it had been discovered Monday.

"I don't care who did it," he is said to have remarked. "I hope they get caught and they ought to go to the electric chair."

Escaped Convict Admits Slaying of Night Guard

Negro Confesses Washington County Clubbing At Scene of Crime; Sheriff's Speed on Draw Saves Own Life As He Attempts to Arrest Alleged Harborers

An escaped Negro convict confessed his guilt in the slaying of a county guard, Sheriff A. W. Smith had a narrow escape from death at the hands of another Negro, and still a third Negro was wounded, possibly fatally, in an eventful day for Washington county officers yesterday.

Frank Johnson, Negro who was brought to the Bibb county jail Sunday for safe-keeping after he had been arrested as a suspect in the brutal slaying of John L. S. Waller, night guard at the Washington county convict camp, was carried back to the scene of the crime yesterday morning by Sheriff Smith where he confessed to the sheriff and other officers, it was reported here, and told them where the pistol, which had been taken from Mr. Waller's body, could be found.

Sheriff Smith, Special Deputy Fred Webster and Chief of Police W. E. Garrard of Sandersville then went to the house where Johnson said the pistol had been left.

Elbert Broomfield, an elderly Negro, came out to speak with the officers, but "was sullen and wouldn't talk much," according to the words of a Washington county officer who was in Macon late yesterday afternoon. As Sheriff Smith started to arrest Broomfield, his two sons came from the house.

Sheriff Quick on Draw
David Broomfield, one of brothers, is said to have raised a pistol to shoot the sheriff, but the officer's gun spat a bullet which pierced the left lung of the Negro and possibly inflicted a fatal wound.

At about the same time, Freddie Broomfield is said to have emptied the barrel of a single-barreled shotgun at the sheriff, who grabbed the barrel of the weapon and moved the muzzle far enough so that he suffered only from powder burns on the upper arm. Some of the shots pierced his sleeve.

Mr. Webster did not have a pistol and Sheriff Garrard was guarding Johnson during the excitement, but after the shotgun charge had been fired and one of the Negroes had been wounded, they were subdued quickly and carried to Sandersville, where they were charged with harboring Johnson.

News of the shooting spread rapidly through the county, although it occurred near Davisboro, 12 or 14 miles from Sandersville, and the officers rushed back to Macon with Johnson, whom they had brought here Sunday for safe-keeping after a mob had begun to form.

Reports from Sandersville last

night were to the effect that considerable feeling had been aroused over the new shooting.

Self Defense Claimed

After being returned to Macon yesterday afternoon, Johnson told a newspaper man that he killed Mr. Waller after asking him for \$2.50 which the Negro claimed was owing to him and that the guard allegedly drew a gun on the escape.

Officers, however, believe that Johnson crept up on his victim, slugged him on the head, then robbed the inert man of a small amount of money and fled.

Johnson said that he fled the Washington county chain gang a week ago yesterday and that Thursday night he stole back to the prison camp and asked Mr. Waller for the \$2.50.

"He drew his pistol on me and I grabbed up a maddock handle and hit him over the head three times with it," the Negro stated.

Mr. Waller, who was 47, died Saturday afternoon from a fractured skull without having regained consciousness.

Deputy Sheriff Ralph Walker, who brought Johnson to Macon, said that the Negro escape had been especially hard to track because he had changed clothing four times. The Negro was captured in Williamson swamp, near Davisboro, about noon Sunday by Warden Lawrence, who had carried track dogs to the scene from the state prison farm.

When first caught, Johnson denied having any knowledge of the crime, and he did not confess until after he had been carried back to the county yesterday.

THREE NEGROES DENIED STAY OF EXECUTIONS

Governor Eugene Thomas Thursday declined to halt the executions of three negroes who were sentenced to be electrocuted for murder at the Milledgeville state prison farm this morning.

Floyd South, slayer of E. B. Catlin, Atlanta grocer, in an attempted robbery; George Cole, of Atlanta, condemned for the murder of another negro, and Reece Castleberry, negro convict, convicted of killing Lee Lindsey, a guard in an escape plot, are the negroes to be executed.

Governor Calhoun heard applications for commutation of sentence to life imprisonment in all three cases, but declined to intervene in any one of the cases.

Allen Westberry, of Valdosta, condemned for the murders of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Browning, whose respite expires today, is to be resented by Judge W. E. Thomas at Valdosta next week.

CONVICT CONFESSES TO SLAYING OF GUARD

Negro Is Rushed From Sandersville to Macon After Crowd Gathers.

SANDERSVILLE, Ga., June 11.— To save his own life, City Detective (P)—Frank Johnson, negro charged with the slaying of John Waller, convicted guard, was spirited back to the name as James Neal and his address as "East Macon and Cordele, Ga." in a Negro house at 221 Division street shortly before noon Saturday.

Waller, night guard at the Washington county convict camp, was yesterday clubbed last Monday night the same night Johnson escaped. Waller died Saturday and Johnson was captured yesterday and taken to Macon.

He was returned here today by Sheriff Smith, who said he had confessed to fatally wounding Waller with a maddock and stealing his pistol.

A large crowd gathered in front of the jail and deputies slipped Johnson out a back door for the return to Macon.

Meanwhile Sheriff Smith had stopped at the home of Elbert Broomfield, a negro who lives 12 miles from here, and was talking to him. Smith said, when one of Broomfield's sons came out of the house with a pistol. Another followed with a shotgun, which the sheriff grabbed just as it was fired, the load tearing through his shirt sleeves.

Smith shot the negro, Fred Broomfield, as Chief of Police Garrard subdued the other with a billy.

The Broomfield negroes, including the wounded one, who was expected to recover, were also placed in jail here but the sheriff said he expected no trouble from the crowd at the jail as far as the Broomfield negroes were concerned.

TWO WHITE MEN HELD IN NEGROES' SLAYING

SUMMERVILLE, Ga., July 25.— Jim Owens and Calhoun Powell, two young white men living at Lyerly, were given a preliminary hearing before Justices J. E. Baker and A. E. Strange Tuesday on a charge of murdering Phil McCluskey and his wife, Delia McCluskey, at the home of the McCluskeys, west of Lyerly, last October.

Both Owens and Powell were committed to jail to await the action of the grand jury at the September term of Chattooga superior court on the charge of murder.

The bodies of McCluskey and his wife were found in a well at their home early one morning. A coroner's jury was unable to find sufficient evidence to clear up the killing and returned a verdict that the negroes were killed by unknown persons.

Last Saturday Paul Morrison, of Lyerly, made a statement under oath that Owens and Powell killed the McCluskeys following an argument over a poker game at the home of the negroes. Morrison claims that he had not told about the killing before

because he had been told not to do so, under threats of death.

OFFICER SHOOT, SAVES OWN LIFE

Negro Draws Gun When Ordered to 'Stick 'Em Up' But Bowden Fires First

To save his own life, City Detective W. H. Bowden shot and critically wounded a Negro giving his name as James Neal and his address as "East Macon and Cordele, Ga." in a Negro house at 221 Division street shortly before noon Saturday. Detective Bowden reported that he had received a tip that he would find a Negro wanted in Florida for murder at the house on Division street. He went there alone and, entering the house, he found several Negroes seated at a table playing cards.

The officer drew his pistol and commanded, "Stick 'em up!" All the Negroes except Neal obeyed his command.

Suspecting Neal to be the Negro wanted, Detective Bowden took hold of him, the Negro then started fighting and attempting to draw something from his shirt. The detective hit him on the head several times with his pistol, but the Negro finally broke loose and pulled a '38 caliber Smith and Wesson pistol from his shirt. He turned to shoot the officer, but Detective Bowden shot first, the bullet lodging in Neal's spine.

An ambulance was called and the Negro sent to the Macon hospital, where he was admitted for treatment. His condition last night was said to be serious.

Detective W. W. James went to the hospital yesterday afternoon and identified Neal as the man who escaped from him after a struggle in a downtown alley Wednesday night. Detective James said that on that night he had come upon the Negro walking along the alley with a package under his arm. Thinking the package might contain some dresses stolen in a hotel burglary recently, he stopped his car and asked the Negro, as a ruse, whether he had any dresses to sell.

The Negro replied that he had no dresses but that he did have some men's clothing. As he approached the automobile, Detective James grabbed him and endeavored to arrest him, but after a brief hand-to-hand encounter, in which the Negro severely bit the officer's arm, he escaped, leaving the package.

The bundle was found to contain a pair of trousers and a shirt, which yesterday were identified as those having been stolen from L. R. Watson, driver for the Central Georgia Baking company, early Wednesday night. Mr. Watson had just got the clothing from a laundry and had not told about the killing before

behind the bakery. Upon leaving the bakery some five minutes later, he found the package missing and notified police of the theft yesterday.

Hogan said he then took the approximately \$245 from the man's pockets, later that morning met his two brothers in Macon and divided the loot.

Brothers Get Part
In their statements, Alford said he received \$45 and C. H. said he was given \$40.

With their money, the three went to a local pawn shop and purchased a pistol each. Frank Hogan is said to have remarked to his brothers that "my working days are over."

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Escaped Convict Admits Slaying of Nigh.

Negro Confesses Washington County Clubbing At Scene of Crime; Sheriff's Speed on Draw Saves Own Life As He Attempts to Arrest Alleged Harbors

Self Defense Claimed

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Johnson, however, believed that Johnson crept up on the victim, slugged him on the head, then amount of money and that Johnson said that he had the Washington county chain gang a week ago, and that Thursday morning he was reported to the sheriff I grabbed up a maddock handle and with it, the Negro stated.

Mr. Waller, who was 47, died Saturday afternoon from a fractured skull without having regained consciousness. Deputy Sheriff Ralph Walker, who brought Johnson to Macon, said that the Negro escape had been especially hard to track because he had his shirt sleeves.

When first caught, Johnson denied having any knowledge of the crime, and he did not confess until after he had been carried back to the county yesterday.

STAY OF EXECUTIONS
Governor Eugene T. Thomas Thursday declined to stay the execution of three Negroes sentenced to hang for the slaying of a guard.

Mr. Webster did not have a pistol robbery; George College, Atlanta, convicted during the excitement, but after the shotgun charge had been fired and one of the Negroes had been wounded, they were subdued quickly and carried to Sandersville, where they were charged with harboring Johnson.

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CONVICT CONFESSES OFFICER SHOOT, SAVES OWN LIFE

Negro Is Rushed From San-Negro derville to Macon After Crowd Gathers.

Bowden Fires First

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Meanwhile Sheriff Smith had stopped at the home of Elbert Broomfield, a negro who lives 12 miles from here, and was talking to him. Smithing and attempting to draw some came out of the house with a pistol, hit him on the head several times with his pistol, but the Negro finally broke loose and pulled a '38 caliber Smith and Wesson pistol from his shirt. He turned to shoot the officer, but Detective Bowden shot him.

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The Negro replied that he had no dresses but that he did have some term of Chatterbox superior court on the charge of murder.

The bodies of Johnson and his wife were found in a wooded area, their hands severely bit the officer's arm, he turned a verdict that the negroes were killed by unknown persons.

Last Saturday Paul Morrison, of yesterday were identified as those that Owens and Powell killed the son, driver for the Central Georgia McKuskeys following an argument Baking company, early Wednesday over a poker game at the home of night. Mr. Watson had just got the negroes. Morrison claims that he had not told about the killing before had left it in a delivery truck parked

Killings-1934.

Georgia

Man Is Brutally Killed by White Race Hater

Slayer Boasts Loudly as He Tells About Other Men He Has Slain on New Year's

AUGUSTA, Ga., Jan. 12.—“I want to kill a damn nigger,” declared Bosey Rearden (white), 1587 15th St., as he walked up to Ed Murray of Warrenton, Ore., who had come to the city to do some shopping with his mother, Mrs. Emma Murray.

Murray, unaware that his life was of lining two Negroes up against a in danger, replied: “Mister, I ain’t done nothin’ to you.”

“I’ve killed two or three other niggers to give the devil a New Year’s present, so I’m gonna send you to hell for this year’s present,” came the rejoinder from Rearden.

Rearden then pulled out a revolver and shot Murray through the abdomen and calmly walked away.

P. H. Rowe, a local white attorney, was near the scene and heard the shot. He walked toward Rearden who was reloading his gun. Rowe slapped the weapon from Rearden’s hand and summoned the police.

The shooting occurred at noon in the Broad St. district, the principal business section of the town. Murray was rushed to University hospital, where he died the next day.

Rearden, when questioned at the police station, could give no reason for the shooting other than he was “drinking a little bit, and wanted to kill a nigger.”

Citizens of the Race here are aroused over the shooting, but expect that Rearden will get off with a light sentence as white men are rarely given punishment to the full extent of the law for killing a black man or woman in Augusta. The courts here permit the use of the word “nigger” when litigants are of our race.

NEGRO’S SLAYER IS BEING SOUGHT

Oglethorpe, Green Officers Hunt
White Men Who Lined Negroes Up Against Wall

LEXINGTON, Ga., Jan. 27 (P)—Oglethorpe and Greene county officers joined forces tonight in a hunt for three white men accused

been informed by citizens in Jefferson county that the report is unfounded.

Three Negroes were killed in that section recently. They are:

Will Walker, killed by Gordon Davis, Bartow town marshal, early in December.

Ernest Bell, found dead near city limits of Bartow about Jan. 1.

Unidentified Negro found dead in Washington county about ten days after Bell’s body was found.

Marshal Wounded

Walker was shot by Marshal Davis, after he had fired on the marshal who was attempting to arrest him for drunkenness. Walker and Marshal Davis were ordered if any, will be handled in a grand jury in this county.

Walker died in the University hospital at Augusta, and Marshal Davis was at the point of death for about 10 days. The marshal is still unable to work.

Bell was killed in a drunken fight, Mayor D. A. McMillan of Bartow told the Telegraph.

There is no evidence as to who killed the unidentified Negro, Jefferson county officials told the Telegraph.

Report Unfounded

Judge Hardeman, who presides over the Middle Judicial Circuit, and Marvin Gross, solicitor general, told the Telegraph that the Caldwell story is unfounded. They denied that there has been any display of ill feeling between the Negroes and whites of Jefferson county.

Both officials said there is no evidence that the killings had any connection whatever.

No Substance In Story

Expressing amazement and indignation over the New Republic’s comment, Judge Hardeman said if there was any substance in the Caldwell version, he would not hesitate to reconvene the grand jury and order a thorough investigation.

The jurist denied that there has been or is now anything like a spirit of mob terror among the white and Negro citizens of Jefferson county. On the contrary, he said, the feeling between the two races is of a high order.

When informed by The Telegraph of the Caldwell story in the New York publication, Judge Hardeman expressed himself as receiving the worst shock he has experienced

about happenings in Georgia during his long career as an official.

Solicitor Gross emphatically denied the report of Caldwell.

No Negro Houses Burned

No Negro houses have been burned in Bartow, the solicitor told The Telegraph. He said a number of houses have been burned in Bartow during past months, but none of them belonged to Negroes; all were owned by white people and were destroyed.

Sheriff J. J. Smith of Jefferson county is conducting an investigation of the killing of Ernest Bell on or about Jan. 1, the solicitor told the Telegraph.

In the case of Walker who wounded Marshal Davis before the latter shot Walker, there will be no further action, it is understood, as it has been established that the Negro was shot by the officer in self-defense and in line of duty.

Washington county authorities are handling the case of the unidentified Negro, and such evidence as the sheriff of this county is able to get, will be handled in a grand jury in this county.

While an adjourned term of Jefferson superior court will be convened in Louisville on Monday by Judge Hardeman, the grand jury will not sit again until May. At this time the Bell case will be presented by the solicitor, if Sheriff Smith has been able to find a clue, The Telegraph is informed.

Mayor’s Statement

Mayor McMillan’s statement follows:

“There has been no race war between the whites and colored here nor is there any danger of any, so far as I know or have any reason to believe. There is not the slightest ill feeling between the races. One Negro was killed early in December resisting arrest in a pistol duel with the marshal. Witnesses say that the Negro fired first. Both of them were wounded; the Negro died a few days later in a hospital in Augusta, Ga.

“The marshal was carried to Rawlings Sanitarium in Sandersville where he remained for several weeks in a critical condition. He is back home now but not fully recovered.

“The Negro was Will Walker. The town marshal was Gordon Davis.

“Another Negro, Ernest Bell, who resided at or near Wadley was found dead on or about Jan. 1, in a well just outside of the city limits of Bartow. He was supposed to have been killed in a drunken row. The night before he was killed by being struck on the head with a piece of iron. There was a pistol found on the ground near the well which was identified as belonging to the dead Negro.

“A few days later another Negro was found dead in the back yard of a vacant house in Washington county, about four miles from Bartow. This Negro was shot several times with a pistol and his throat was cut. Just where he came from or who he was, the officers, as far as I know, have not been able to find out.

“He was not at all mutilated so he must have lived some distance from here or somebody would have recognized him. It is not believed that there is any connection between the killings.

“There have been no Negro houses burned here that I know of; none have been burned in recent years.”

Phillips Denies Report

John R. Phillips, lawyer and banker of Louisville, and former state senator and member of the state highway board, denies that the Caldwell story is founded on facts. Mr. Phillips statement to The Telegraph follows:

“As Mark Twain said when informed of his death, the report is grossly exaggerated.”

“Absolutely no race disturbance in Jefferson county. One Negro was found dead near Bartow and one several miles away in Washington county but no suggestion of race conflict is apparent.

“There is no foundation for report that race war exists.

“The relation between races in this county is good, even though we have as have others some lawless citizens.”

Rev. I. S. Caldwell of Wrens, father of Erskine Caldwell, giving his version of the affair to The Telegraph, said:

“Out of a maze of rumors of serious disorder in Bartow comes definite information of the killing of three Negro men. One of the Negroes is said to have been killed by a Bartow deputy. The second body was found near the Jefferson-Washington line. His throat had been cut and five bullet holes were in his body. Negroes of that section say that there were about 25 automobiles seen near the spot where the body was found.

“On December 31, crowds of men, numbering near 200, were seen on the streets of Bartow, some being white, some black.

“Jan. 1, the body of a Negro was found in a well. The report is that citizens of that section saw the man killed and body thrown into the well. On last Saturday only six Negroes appeared on the streets of Bartow. “The Jefferson county coroner has held inquests but the verdicts have not been published in any newspapers.

“Sheriff J. J. Smith of Jefferson county is holding two Negroes in jail to prevent threatened lynching.

“The disorders and the killings of recent weeks were not brought to the attention of the grand jury at its

NO RACE WAR IN JEFFERSON, CITIZENS SAY

Erskine Caldwell’s Charges Are
Unfounded, Telegraph

Check Indicates
1-24-34
THREE KILLINGS REPORTED
Officers Say They Have No
Reason for Thinking They
Are Connected

Following the publication of a statement of Erskine Caldwell in the New Republic, describing conditions at Bartow, where he says a race war has been in progress for several weeks, and at least three Negroes have been killed by gangs of white men, the Telegraph has

Republic's Comment

Commenting on the situation, the New Republic says:

Erskine Caldwell, the well-known author, last week turned reporter. He telegraphed to The New Masses a description of conditions at Bartow, Georgia, where he says that a race war has been in progress for several weeks. At least three Negroes have been killed by gangs of white men; two others are "missing" and several are under protective arrest. Fourteen houses have been burned. Local authorities assume that nothing will be done to punish the murderers, on the ground that witnesses won't testify and juries won't convict, in cases where white men have attacked Negroes.

The International Labor Defense has telegraphed to the local sheriff, the governor of Georgia and President Roosevelt, demanding an end of this reign of terror and punishment for the participants. One of the most striking features of the situation is that, so far as we can learn, nothing has appeared in the daily press about this situation.

Either Mr. Caldwell has made up the whole story—which is obviously impossible—or the local papers and the press associations have been guilty of breaking the first rule of journalism; to get and print the news. Or is the murder of Negroes now so common that it is no longer worth recording?

Caldwell Has Play Running

Mr. Caldwell, author of the article in the New Republic, is an author of national repute. His latest book, Tobacco Road, has been dramatized and is now showing on Broadway.

A graduate of the University of Virginia, Mr. Caldwell worked on the reportorial staff of The Atlanta Journal several years. He has written several books and a number of short stories. He spends most of his time in Maine and New York.

We Don't Believe It

The weight of evidence is in favor of the theory that the alleged exposure by Erskine Caldwell of a "race war" in Jefferson county is an inexcusable piece of sensationalism, fostered by the radical sheet, The New Masses, with the malodorous International Labor Defense bidding, as usual, for a little free advertising.

We cannot believe that Judge R. N. Hardeman and Solicitor General Marvin Gross, of the Middle circuit, together with other leading citizens of Jefferson county, would lend themselves to a conspiracy of silence in the face of a real outbreak of racial antagonism in that section of the state.

Caldwell charges that "at least three Negroes" have been killed by gangs of white men, two others are "missing" and several are under protective arrest, while 14 houses—with the implication that they were Negro houses—had been burned.

Sifting out the facts we find that early in December one Negro was killed by the Bartow town marshal who was attempting to arrest him for drunkenness and that in the pistol duel the marshal received wounds which were almost fatal.

Another Negro was found dead near the city limits of Bartow, with every evidence of having been killed in a drunken brawl by one of his own race.

An unidentified Negro was found 10 days later across the line in Washington county.

The positive statement is made by Solicitor General Gross that, while a number of houses have been burned in Bartow during the past few months, all of them were vacant and were owned by white people.

On this slender basis of facts Caldwell builds up a weird story which he trumpets to the world—so far as The New Masses and The New Republic circulate—to the effect that a race war in one of the most cultured and law-abiding counties of Georgia has brought on a reign of terror and that the courts are indifferent or powerless.

The Rev. I. S. Caldwell, of Wrens, father of Erskine Caldwell, gives out a version of the situation in Jefferson county tending to support the story written by his son. He charges that 25 automobiles were seen near the spot where the dead body of the unidentified Negro was found. He charges that on December 31, crowds of men "numbering near 200" were seen on the streets of Bartow, "some being white, some black." He alleges that "the report is" that there were witnesses to the murder of the Negro killed on January 1 and that they saw his body thrown into a well.

He says further that only six Negroes appeared on the streets of Bartow last Saturday and that the Jefferson county sheriff is holding two Negroes in jail to prevent "a threatened lynching."

It may well be that one good reason why some of these details have not appeared in the newspapers is that they are not true, but whether printed or not it is difficult to understand how the existence of such a situation could be so completely smothered that the rumor would not get abroad in reliable quarters by word of mouth.

We feel sure that the Jefferson county authorities will go to the bottom of the entire situation and make public the facts, but the charge of a race war in Jefferson county is distinctly discounted by the source from which it comes.

BARTOW KILLINGS ARE PUZZLING TO JEFFERSON COUNTY SHERIFF

Officer Says Slaying of Negroes 'Looks Powerful Bad' But Judge R. N. Hardeman Brands Caldwell's Version of Affair as 'Bunch of Sensationalism'

LOUISVILLE, Ga., Jan. 26 (AP)—Published charges made by Erskine Caldwell, native Georgia author, that Negroes had been killed by white men at Bartow, tonight brought a statement from Sheriff J. J. Smith, of Jefferson county, that the "affair looked powerful bad" there and another from Superior Court Judge R. N. Hardeman that there was "nothing to it."

Caldwell whose book "Tobacco Road" has been dramatized, wrote an article for the magazine New Masses in which he charged three Negroes had been killed and that another would have been killed if he had not been killed by a policeman.

"I will not confirm anything," said Sheriff Smith. "But I will say this, the affair looks powerful bad. Something might develop later."

The sheriff said "two or three Negroes have been killed" and that there were reports that from one to four others had been slain but that he had been unable to find the bodies of those mentioned in the reports. He said a coroner's jury was called to investigate but that nothing was developed and added that "somebody is trying to cover something up."

A request that the grand jury be called into special session "to clear up the whole thing" was refused, the sheriff said. He said there was nothing legally left for him to do.

To Grant Interview Judge Hardeman who termed the reports "a bunch of sensationalism" said he would grant an interview tomorrow, and declined to confirm or deny that he had been requested by the sheriff to call the grand jury into special session.

The judge said, however, there was "no occasion for a special session" and that the next grand jury meets in May.

"There is nothing to all these reports," Judge Hardeman continued. "There is no racial disturbance; there never has been."

The reports developed from the shooting of a Negro by the town marshal at Bartow, the judge said. When the marshal attempted to arrest the Negro, whom he described as intoxicated, Judge Hardeman said the Negro started shooting. The marshal was wounded and returned to the fire.

Both the officer and the Negro went to the hospital, the latter dying a few days later, Judge Hardeman said. He explained that the marshal was shot in the lung and stomach and was still in a critical condition.

was found shot to death. There was no riot, no racial prejudice."

The finding of the body of an unidentified Negro in the neighboring county of Washington was in no way connected with the shootings in Jefferson county, he said.

Reports that several houses had been burned in Bartow were declared by Judge Hardeman to be unfounded.

"I went to Bartow yesterday and personally investigated the reports," he added. "There have been no Negro houses burned, there has been no fire of any kind, not even a chicken coop or pig pen since this trouble. There is nothing, absolutely nothing, to the reports."

"I'll pay \$100 apiece for every house found to have been burned in or around Bartow or in Jefferson county since this affair."

Solicitor General Marvin Gross has announced Caldwell, a native of Jefferson county, would be called before the May session of the grand jury to tell what he knows about the case.

JURY NAMES NEGRO AS SLAYER OF WARR

An inquest Monday into the slaying of William W. Warr, 61-year-old farmer, who was shot to death Saturday night in a Negro's house at Grover's farm on the Harrison road near Candler field, resulted in a verdict naming George Wallace, negro, as the slayer.

Warr, the father of nine children, was shot one time in the left breast with a pistol and died almost instantly. Chief Moore, of the Hapeville police, arrested Wallace's wife and began a search for Wallace.

Funeral services for Mr. Warr will be held at 11 o'clock this morning in the New Hope Baptist church, with the Rev. Chester Adams officiating and interment taking place in the churchyard, with Howard L. Carmichael in charge. Surviving him are four daughters, Mrs. C. D. Morris, Miss Mattie Warr, and Mrs. Claude Cardin and Mrs. William Cardin; and five sons, J. O., D. W., L. F., Flovel and Eugene Warr, all of Atlanta.

MURDERER OF NEGRO DECLARED INSANE

AUGUSTA, Ga., Feb. 5. (AP)—Perry Eugene Rearden, who was quoted by officers as saying the "spirits" had told him to kill Ed Murray, negro, was found by a jury of superior court today to be insane and ordered sent to the state hospital at Milledgeville.

Rearden entered a special plea of insanity to a charge of murder, and several witnesses testified that Rearden received a blow on the head while serving with the United States marine in Haiti. Murray was killed early in January.

NEGRO IS KILLED IN KNIFE BATTLE

Officers Hold Sam Holt Pending Inquest Over Body of Hart This Morning

A knife duel early last night between two middle-aged Negroes on lower Dempsey avenue, Unionville, resulted in the death of Freeman Hart and the arrest of Sam Holt who is being held pending the outcome of a coroner's inquest to be held at 10 a.m., today at the Central City funeral home.

The Unionville Negroes became engaged in an argument, witnesses told Luther Stevens, arresting deputy sheriff, when Hart went to Holt's home in Unionville and stood in the doorway while he cursed his adversary.

Holt ordered Hart to leave his home, witnesses related, but Hart refused to go until Holt agreed to accompany him.

When the men reached the lower end of Dempsey avenue Hart is alleged to have attacked Holt with a knife, severely wounding him on the back of the neck. Holt in turn severed Hart's jugular vein with his knife. He died almost instantly. Holt, truck farmer and CWA laborer, was treated at the Macon hospital where internes took eight stitches in the wound on his neck before he was lodged in the Bibb county jail.

Killings-1934

NEGRO IS KILLED BY ANGRY WOMAN

Jesse Dent, Truck Driver, Fatally Stabbed in Heart; Eva Josey Held

Stabbed through the heart with a switch blade, Jesse Dent, Negro truck driver, died almost instantly yesterday afternoon and officers immediately arrested his assailant, Eva Josey, 24-year-old Negress. She is being held on a murder charge pending a coroner's investigation. Both Negroes live in Reynold's lane.

The stabbing was said by witnesses to have grown out of an argument between the two over the Negress' attentions to another Negro. Dent and the Negress occupied the same house in Reynolds lane with John Josey, brother of the woman, it was said.

John Josey, who is alleged to have held Dent while his sister stabbed him, is being held for investigation by John Long and George Adams, arresting officers.

Dent dropped dead in Reynold's lane and the body was removed to the Central City undertaking establishment where a coroner's inquest will be held at 10 a.m. today.

Witness Tells Story

Will Brown, Harris alley Negro and an eye witness to the killing, told police that the couple had been arguing and that when Dent threatened to strike the woman her brother grabbed him and held his arms behind him. It was then that the woman is said to have stabbed Dent.

John Josey told police that they "had all been playing" and that "everybody was about half drunk." Others said that Dent had been choking the woman and that she wrestled clear and stabbed him. Dent, about 25 years old, was employed by Jacob Hirsch.

Bartow Man Held For Negro's Death

LOUISVILLE, Ga., May 17 (AP)—Bernard McMillan, 34, today went on trial on a charge of murder in connection with the death of Ernest Bell, Negro.

The finding of Bell's body in a well last December was one of the incidents which caused the criticism of the Bartow section by Erskine Caldwell, author of "Wrens, Ga.", and Mt. Vernon, Maine.

Another Negro's body was found about the same time as Bell's in Washington county. The body was never identified and no charges have ever been filed.

From Death To 3 Years

Is the Miraculous Change in Sentence

OF TWO NEGRO MEN

Who Were Accused of Killing a White Man

Albany, Ga., Feb. 16—Oscar Gordon and his son, Oscar, Jr., two colored farmers, near here, were found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to one to three years in prison by the Grady county superior court for the killing of a white man last June.

Gordon and his son were convicted last year of murder in the first degree and sentenced to death in the electric chair. Their two white attorneys, James W. Smith and Delacey Allen of this city appealed to the Georgia Supreme court and secured a reversal of the verdict and a new trial.

The Albany branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the national office in New York employed Messrs. Allen and Smith after the first verdict and enabled them to press the appeal and second trial.

The two lawyers secured a change of venue from Baker county to Grady county and virtually worked a miracle in securing the light manslaughter verdict. They write:

"We doubt whether there has been a case in the history of Georgia, under the circumstances, little help that we could secure from our witnesses, some of them had been lynched and some had been driven to the four corners of the earth, we feel very proud

of our efforts in this case."

The murder occurred on June 3, 1933, when four drunken white men of the locality entered the Gordon house where a party was in progress. In a fight with a Negro outside the house one of the white men was shot and later died. It has never been exactly determined who fired the fatal shot. Gordon and his son were jailed in Albany, Ga., whence Mrs. Gordon also fled in terror. Their crops, stock and belongings were confiscated.

NEGRO IS SLAIN,

COMPANION HELD

Negress in Custody of Officers Pending Coroner's Inquest Here Today

The body of Ellis Carswell, 2, Negro of 103 Rose Crest avenue, lay in an undertaker's morgue last night and his next-door neighbor, Leatrice Stowe, 20, was being held by police in connection with his slaying—the result of a Sunday afternoon automobile ride.

Shot once through the right chest with a pistol, Carswell, a presser at the Leaptrot Dry Cleaning company, died en route to the Macon hospital without making a statement. The Negress, streaming blood from a small knife-stab wound in the back, jumped from the car in which she and Carswell were riding on Monroe street near Washington avenue, and ran to Middle street in Pleasant Hill before apprehended by police.

Otis Jackson, young Negro of 421 Liberty street, driver of the "T" model Ford sedan, was still driving his machine when the Negress jumped out the rear door, and convinced his drive to the hospital with the dying Negro.

Particulars Not Recalled
The Stowe woman was taken by police to the hospital where her stab wound was treated. She did not reveal a motive for the killing and said that she did not know whether or not she was cut before she fired her pistol.

Jackson told police that he did not hear the argument on the back seat which led to the fatal scuffle. The Negress said "it all happened too quick" for her to recall particulars.

A coronor's jury will investigate the episode at 3 p.m. today at Hutchings' funeral home.

The young couple had entered Jackson's car on Edgewood avenue late yesterday afternoon and he was

"hiding them around" when the other got away. Gibson advanced to argument became deadly on Monroe street. Officers O' Cain and Burden investigated the incident.

Negro Indicted

In Uncle's Death

Six Other True Bills Returned by Bibb Grand Jury

Seven true bills were returned by the Bibb county grand jury yesterday and at the close of its session an announcement was made that the body would meet again at 10 a. m., Monday.

One murder indictment against Frank Eugene Hogan, Negro, was returned. In it he is accused of having slain his uncle, Will Meadows, on May 19. A second indictment charging Hogan with robbing his uncle of \$245 also was returned.

Other indictments were against Dr. O. C. Anderson, assault with intent to murder Respass McKinney, March 19; George Collins and Richard Collins, breaking into a Southern railroad car May 23; W. C. Cook, forgery of a \$10 Western Union money order April 29; Grover Cleveland Jones, burglary of the United Purchasing company's store room May 27; Mrs. Sarah Anne Parks Malone, alias Mrs. W. M. Thompson, forgery of drafts for \$25 and \$40 on Mrs. Edna Ayers, of Elberton, on March 26 and May 29, respectively.

TIFTON, GA.

GAZETTE

MAY 29 1934

NEGRO CUT TO DEATH

From The Moultrie Observer:

Fred Brown, negro, was cut to death late Sunday night at a turpentine still near Norman Park. Oliver Jones, another negro, has been arrested as the slayer of Brown. The two men had previous trouble, and Jones is alleged to have threatened Brown.

Jones used a pocket knife. Brown was almost decapitated, Sheriff T. V. Beard, who was notified of the homicide and went to the scene Sunday night, said. Jones was arrested and will be held pending grand jury action in his case. That body does not convene until October. Jones' arrest was the only one made by the sheriff's office over the week.

CONVICT IS KILLED BY GUARD IN WILKES

WASHINGTON, Ga., July 19.—Silas Gibson, negro, was killed Thursday at the Wilkes county convict camp by S. H. Flynt, guard. Though he was manhandling for an

argument became deadly on Monroe street. Officers O' Cain and Burden investigated the incident.

Last year Gibson led an attack on Guard Jones, disarmed, gagged and tied him, the entire gang escaping in a county truck. He was located several months later in New Mexico. His last break a week ago was frustrated by county officers.

His original sentence for 20 years for arson at Danburg, two years ago, had reached an aggregate of 50 years.

NEGRO IS KILLED BY PISTOL SHOT

Sheriff's Deputies Searching For Second Negro in Cutting, Shooting Scrape

Kinley Wallace, 29, Sofkee Negro farmer, was shot to death early last night as the result of a cutting and shooting scrape that climaxed a baseball game at Sofkee.

Sheriff's deputies last night sought Floyd Pearson, Negro, as the person who fired a pistol shot into Wallace's abdomen. Wallace died just as he arrived at the Macon hospital. Internes said that the bullet evidently broke a blood vessel in Wallace's abdomen.

Both Pearson and Wallace suffered knife wounds in the fracas as did a third Negro whose name Deputies Oscar Harris and Luther Stevens did not learn.

Wallace suffered a laceration across a hand while Pearson was said to have been cut in the back and on an arm. Deputies checked hospitals here to determine if Pearson had come for treatment but had found no trace of him early this morning.

From versions of the fighting learned from witnesses officers formed the opinion that the shooting by Pearson was justified. He had been attacked by Wallace with a knife in a quarrel after the ball game, they reported.

Man, Wife Found Dead In Meriwether Mystery

Telegraph
7-9-34
Decomposed Bodies of Sam Hughes and Wife Discovered in Woods After Six-Day Disappearance; Two Negro Tenants Are Being Held on Suspicion

GREENVILLE, Ga., July 8.—The Sheriff Collier's investigation last night brought from Maggie Tucker, who it is said was not at home on Monday afternoon, a story of how the couple had met their death, told to her, she said, by her husband. Hughes, according to her husband's story as told by Maggie to the sheriff, upon finding his wife in the tenant house, had, in a state of frenzy, shot his wife and then turned the gun upon himself. A shotgun was found there today, but there was no indication that it had been the lethal weapon. No empty shells were discovered.

A coroner's inquest, after verification, adjourned until tomorrow pending evidence on the circumstance of their mysterious death.

Meanwhile Joe Tucker, Negro tenant on the Hughes property in the White Sulphur Springs community, is being held on suspicion in the Newnan jail, where he was taken last night when the disappearance was first reported to officers. His wife, Maggie, is being held in Harris county, it was reported.

Informing yesterday of the disappearance of the couple, Sheriff H. C. Collier went to Tucker's house, where the Hughes' were last reported seen, and arrested the Negroes for investigation.

Mrs. Hughes went on an errand to the Tucker house about 4 o'clock last Monday afternoon, her mother-in-law, Mrs. Chapman, reported to police last night. She failed to return during the evening and Mr. Hughes then went in search of her at about 7 o'clock Mrs. Chapman said, and it was the last she saw of either of them.

Williams Finds Bodies

However, Mrs. Chapman said in her statement to the police, when they failed to return the next day she presumed they had gone to see relatives in Atlanta, but to make sure sent her grandson, Herman Hughes, there to find out. When he discovered they had not visited Atlanta kinspeople, he returned and their disappearance was reported.

This morning a searching party of 25 or 30 people from here went to that section of the county, being met by a large group there. Harvey Williams, walking through the woods to join the party was attracted by vultures flying over a spot nearby and upon investigation discovered two human skeletons.

Neighbors and relatives identified the bodies by articles of clothing. No indication of the means by which the couple met their death was evident.

The bodies were sent to Atlanta for interment. Hughes was 59 years of age, his wife 58. They had been residents of this county for the past nine years except for occasional absences. They lived on what is known in the White Sulphur Springs

Found by Meriwether Farmer, Attracted by Circling of Buzzards.

TWO WERE MISSING SINCE LAST MONDAY

Joe Tucker, 35-Year-Old Negro, Held at Newnan Jail; Bloodstains Said Found in Suspect's Home

The decomposed bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hughes, former Atlantaans, were found Sunday in a swamp near their home several miles from Greenville, Ga., and Meriwether of which she told the jury her husband told her last Monday that the officers are holding a negro tenant farm-er charged with the double murder.

Mr. and Mrs. Hughes, aged about 58, resided in Atlanta and near College Park until four years ago, when they removed to Meriwether county to farm.

The husband and wife had been missing from their home in the Ogletree community since last Monday afternoon and their bodies were discovered Sunday morning by a Meriwether county farmer who was attracted to the tragic scene by the circling of buzzards.

A coroner's jury, of which Dr. R. B. Gilbert, of Greenville, is foreman, started an investigation Sunday which is to be completed today. He said a confession was expected to be obtained today from Joe Tucker, 35-year-old negro, who is held in jail at Newnan. Tucker was first charged with possession of two gallons of whisky. Later the charge was changed to murder.

Negro Arrested at Home.

Sheriff C. H. Collier, of Meriwether county, arrested Tucker after he had gone to the negro's house Saturday to see if he had information as to the whereabouts of Mr. and Mrs. Hughes. Search for their bodies was instigated in the vicinity of Tucker's home when the negro asked the sheriff "what would you do if you found Mr. and Mrs. Hughes dead?"

Parties of farmers in the community in which the Hughes lived were then organized by Sheriff Collier and Deputy Sheriff J. B. Jarrell, and the bodies were found early Sunday near the White Sulphur creek. Scavengers had practically torn all flesh away and only the skeletons remained clothed in remnants of cloth.

Mrs. Hughes was last seen alive in the Ogletree community Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock when she left the home of her mother, Mrs. Annie E. Chapman, formerly of College Park, to go to the home of Tucker to get some vegetables.

Soon after Mrs. Hughes left her mother's house, Mr. Hughes came searching for his wife. He, too, left to go to Tucker's house. Neither was seen again until their bodies were found.

Sheriff Collier and Dr. Gilbert said Hughes' wagon had blood-stains on

it and that blood was found in Tucker's house. The negro denied all knowledge of the killings and before his arrest Saturday had aided in searching for them.

Reports to Sheriff.

For several days Mrs. Chapman did not become suspicious of her son's and daughter's disappearance, thinking they had come to Atlanta to visit relatives. Friday she herself came here to find the Hughes. On being unable to locate them, she returned to Greenville and Mrs. J. B. Hix, her granddaughter, reported the matter to the sheriff.

Tucker accompanied Mrs. Chapman to Atlanta Friday, looking for the persons he is accused of killing. He drove the car for Mrs. Chapman. Her son Hughes, the Hughes' grandson, came with them. He was not at home Monday, having come to Atlanta in the Hughes' car and returned Tuesday to find his grandparents missing.

Tucker's wife, at the beginning of the coroner's inquest Sunday in Greenville, made a sensational confession in which she told the jury her husband told her last Monday that the officers are holding a negro tenant farm-er charged with the double murder.

Mr. and Mrs. Hughes, aged about 58, resided in Atlanta and near College Park until four years ago, when they removed to Meriwether county to farm.

Few Marks of Violence.

"There were no marks to indicate that Hughes or his wife had been shot," Dr. Gilbert, the examining physician, said Sunday night. "The bone of the nose of Mrs. Hughes had a slight fracture, but her skull was not broken. The bodies were so badly de-composed that it is difficult to deter-mine just how they were killed."

The first decision of the coroner's jury was that Mr. and Mrs. Hughes had come to their deaths by violence inflicted by a party or parties unknown.

Sheriff Collier and Dr. Gilbert said Sunday they were of the opinion that Tucker will confess his part in the crime today. The negro had been warned several times by Mr. and Mrs. Hughes about handling whisky. He has served several terms on the chain gang, once for burglary, G. A. Hudson, Greenville lawyer, said. The sheriff "what would you do if you found Mr. and Mrs. Hughes dead?"

Formerly Operated Store.

Residents of College Park recalled Sunday night that a man named Hughes had operated a store there until four years ago.

Dr. Gilbert said that the coroner's jury will take up the case again today and will complete the investigation.

The Ogletree community in which Mr. and Mrs. Hughes resided, is about five miles southwest of Greenville. Mrs. Chapman resides with them and Tucker's house was in sight of the Hughes home.

Mr. and Mrs. Hughes are survived by two daughters, Mrs. J. B. Hix and Mrs. Charley McElreath, both of Atlanta, and their grandson, Herman Hughes, who resided with them. They will be buried together at 10 o'clock this morning in Casey's cemetery.

Jack Howard, of Brookhaven, a nephew of the slain couple, said Mr. Hughes formerly operated a store on Jackson street in College Park.

NEGRO SENTENCED TO DIE IN CHAIR

Telegraph
7-9-34
Meriwether Jury Convicts Man For Murder of Couple Near Greenville, S. C.

GREENVILLE, Ga., Aug. 30.—A Meriwether county superior court jury today found Joe Tucker, Negro, guilty of the murder of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hughes, white couple, last month ago. He made a confession to Sheriff Lee Banks in Newnan and later to Sheriff C. H. Collier of Meriwether county. He made the same confession in court today.

The murders took place, Tucker stated in his testimony on the witness stand, near White Sulphur Springs section of the county, and the bodies were not found by searching parties until several days later. Tucker has been held in the Fulton county jail since his arrest over a month ago. He made a confession to Sheriff Lee Banks in Newnan and later to Sheriff C. H. Collier of Meriwether county. He made the same confession in court today.

Grandson Saw Dead Body

Tucker said the woman came to his home and after an argument, he struck her and killed her with a large wooden club. Shortly afterwards, Tucker said, Mrs. Hughes' grandson, Herman, a state witness in the trial today, came to the house, armed with a shotgun, seeking his grandmother. Tucker said that after Hughes saw the body on the floor, he remarked that "we will have to kill the old man, now." The Negro said he took the boy's gun away from him.

When Sam Hughes came to the house in search of his wife, Tucker said, the Negro also killed him, with the shotgun, and took the two bodies about three miles from the house and left them in the woods. When found by searching party, the bodies were almost unrecognizable.

On the stand as a state witness, Herman Hughes denied any part in the crime and said he was in Atlanta on that day.

A large crowd filled the street before the Meriwether courthouse here as the trial was in progress. The Negro was remanded to the county jail to await departure for the death house in the Milledgeville state prison.

Killings - 1934

Georgia Writer's Hand Called On Negro Lynching Charge

Story Of 'Mass Slaughter' Discounted; Grand Jury To Hear Caldwell

SANDERSVILLE, Ga., Jan. 24. (AP)—Erskine Caldwell, native Georgian, whose latest book, "The Tobacco Road," has been dramatized and is now showing on Broadway, will be called before a grand jury of Jefferson County Ga., to tell what he knows about his charges in a recent magazine article of the killing of negroes by white men there.

Georgia officers said their investigations had failed to show any racial tinge to the killings which they described as nothing out of the ordinary.

Marvin Gross, solicitor general of the district of which Jefferson County is a part, announced late today that he would call Caldwell before the grand jury when it meets in May. Caldwell's charges were contained in an article which he wrote for the magazine, "New Masses." He said that three negroes had been put to death in Jefferson County by white men at Bartow and a fourth negro would have been lynched by the mob if he had not been killed by a policeman.

Jefferson County is in the eastern section of Georgia. The county seat, Louisville, was once the capital of the State. The Solicitor General said that Caldwell's Georgia home is at Wrens in that county.

In his article Caldwell listed the deaths of an unidentified negro and another negro named Ernest Bell and said that the man who killed them "walked the streets in heroic strides. Their names are known. They will ever boast of their crimes." He then charged that the coroner's jury "washed their hands of the deeds when it returned the verdict: 'Death at the hands of parties unknown.'"

Superior Court Judge R. N. Hardeman and Solicitor General Gross both said that the Caldwell charges were unfounded. Both said there is no evidence that the killings had any connection whatever.

In Atlanta today Gov. Eugene Talmadge said he had received a report some time ago that there had been several negro killings in Jefferson County and he had taken the matter up with the proper officials.

The Governor said that "I found there was no race war in that section. I also found that the officials had done their duty and I am certain the Grand Jury

quick to deny any reports of racial trouble.

Writer Will Be Summoned To Tell Board of Inquiry Of 'Bartow's Race War'

SANDERSVILLE, Ga., Jan. 24 (AP)—Erskine Caldwell, native Georgian, whose latest book, Tobacco Road, has been dramatized and is now showing on Broadway, will be called before the grand jury of Jefferson county, Georgia, to tell what he knows about his charges in a recent magazine article of the killing of Negroes by white men there.

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"They Will Even Boast" In his article, Caldwell listed the deaths of an unidentified Negro and another Negro named Ernest Bell and said that the man who killed them "walked the streets in heroic strides. Their names are known. They will even boast of their crimes." He then charged that the coroner's jury "washed their hands of the deeds when it returned the verdict: 'Death at the hands of parties unknown'."

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Killings Are Listed

Three Negroes killed in this section recently were:

Will Walker, shot by the Bartow town marshal after the Negro had fired on the officer when the latter attempted to arrest him on a charge of drunkenness.

Ernest Bell, found dead near the city limits of Bartow about the first of the year.

An unidentified Negro found dead about ten days later in Washington county, which adjoins Jefferson.

Bell was killed in a drunken fight, Mayor D. A. McMillan of Bartow said. There is no evidence as to who killed the unidentified Negro in Washington county, officials reported.

Residents of Jefferson county were quick to deny any reports of racial trouble.

Augusta, Ga., Chronicle
January 28, 1934

Go to the Bottom of the Bartow Affair

Jefferson county owes it to herself, to Georgia and to the South to go to the bottom of the Bartow affair, where, it is alleged, negroes have been murdered and the entire negro population so terrified by white men that no negro dares to walk on the streets of the town at night. The statement of Erskine Caldwell, author, in the "New Masses," a magazine, was corroborated by his father, Rev. I. S. Caldwell, prominent and esteemed minister and teacher of Wrens, and denied by Solicitor General Gross of that superior court circuit.

Then comes the statement from Sheriff James Smith to The Augusta Chronicle that the story as related by the Caldwell is true, and this, in turn, is denied by Judge R. N. Hardeman, of the superior court.

Thus we have stout assertions and stout denials. Certainly a grand jury investigation should be made and should go to the bottom of the affair. If conditions are as has been described then there should be a general cleaning up of the situation at Bartow and proper and severe punishment meted out to those who are guilty. For one negro to have been beaten to death by white men, another shot to death and the body of a third found in a field, with the presumption that white men also slew him, and for other negroes to be held in jail in Louisville to protect them from mob violence in Bartow, is a situation which, if true, is a disgrace to the town of Bartow, to Jefferson county and the state of Georgia.

Killings anywhere are presumed to be investigated by officers of the law and upon investigation a coroner's jury determines the manner of death and then a magistrate or other judicial officer holds a preliminary hearing and decides whether or not to bind over the killers to the grand jury. Many cases of justifiable homicide occur and slayers are dismissed after a preliminary hearing. That does not seem to have been the method at Bartow. If we are to assume that there was justification

for killing the negroes on the theory of self defense or any other theory, then why has the entire affair been enshrouded in so much secrecy?

The Chronicle would ask the public not to judge the good people of Bartow and Jefferson county on the evidence so far presented. It would be unfair in view of the conflicting statements of people of prominence. On the one hand we have the statements of a superior court judge and solicitor general, and on the other we have the statements of a sheriff and a minister. This is all the more reason why the case should be probed to the bottom. "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

Jefferson County Race Trouble, Charged by Caldwell, Is Denied

Charges of several negro kill-ings in Jefferson county were in-vestigated by The Constitution when the reports that Erskine Caldwell planned the article re-ferred to here was first received. The report of conditions made at that time by Sheriff J. J. Smith, of Jefferson county, showing that the three deaths were in no way connected and that there was no "racial trouble" in the county, was published in The Constitution of Sunday, January 14.

NEW YORK, Jan. 24.—(AP)—Erskine Caldwell, author of bookswill be called before the grand jury about the south, charges in the cur-of Jefferson county, Georgia, to tell rent issue of the magazine New Masses that three negroes have beena recent magazine article of the kill-put to death in Jefferson county,ing of negroes by white men there. Georgia, by white men of Bartow.

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"Walker had tried to protect his life, and he was killed for his pains," the article said. It quotes a farmer as saying "there must have been 10 or 12 put to death last year."

Listing the deaths of an unidentified negro and another named Ernest Bell, Caldwell says that the men who killed them "walk the streets in heroic strides. Their names are known; they will even boast of their crimes."

Nevertheless, he charged, the coroner's jury "washed their hands of the deeds when it returned the verdict, "Death at the hands of parties unknown."

"Two weeks ago," the article relates, "Will Jordan was killed by two white men who went to his house after midnight and shot him while he was asleep in bed with his wife. His six children were in the room with him. The next day the two men admitted they had killed the wrong negro—they were after someone else and they had gone into the Jordan house by mistake. The killers were acquitted. They promised the jury they would kill the 'right' negro next time they went out shooting."

He tells of visiting Sam Outler in jail, where he fled for protection after being beaten by the gang which the author charges killed Bell, and continues:

"You cannot keep from feeling uncomfortable; because your skin is white, and Sam Outler is an accusing finger pointing at the white men of

port some time ago that there had been several negro killings in Jefferson county and he had taken the matter up with the proper officials.

The governor said that "I found there was no race war in that section. I also found that the officials had done their duty and I am certain the grand jury will make a thorough investigation at the proper time. It is not the duty of the governor of Georgia to take a hand in crimes committed unless they are unusual. The governor, if there was an uprising or race war, would take a hand and act for the best interest of the people of the state. There was no need for this in Jefferson county and the matter is entirely in the hands of the local authorities."

Solicitor-General Gross, speaking of the Caldwell article, said:

"I know Erskine Caldwell personally. He is just a fellow who likes to talk if he can get anybody to listen to him. I am going to call him before the next session of the grand jury in May to see what he knows about the killings about which he has written. I know he doesn't know anything but I am going to call him before the grand jury anyway."

"The finest colored people in the world live in Jefferson county. The feeling between negroes and white people in the county is as good and as cordial as will be found in any section of the country. The killings which Caldwell has related are nothing out of the ordinary. The local officials have made thorough investigation and when the grand jury meets all of the cases will be placed before that body."

Three Negroes Killed.

Three negroes killed in this section recently were:

Will Walker, shot by the Bartow town marshal after the negro had fired on the officer when the latter attempted to arrest him on a charge of drunkenness;

Ernest Bell, found dead near the city limits of Bartow about the first of the year;

An unidentified negro found dead about 10 days later in Washington county, which adjoins Jefferson.

Bell was killed in a drunken fight, Mayor D. A. McMillan, of Bartow said. There is no evidence as to who killed the unidentified negro in Washington county, officials reported.

Residents of Jefferson county were quick to deny any reports of racial trouble.

Caldwell Caught Red-Handed

The main feature in a controversy over

facts is to find out what they are. It is of no value to pass the lie. When there is a dispute, both sides should diligently set about ascertaining the truth for truth's sake—and when that is done, the one in the wrong should admit it, make the necessary amends, and have an end of the matter. That is manly, courageous, honest, commendable. No other course is.

Erskine Caldwell is a newspaper man of long experience. He knows the value of words, and he knows how to get facts, and he

knows too much to be misled by rumor into making use of it as facts. He wrote an article for The Masses recently in which he charged that mobs of white men were running riot, unmolested, in the vicinity of Bartow and Louisville, Ga., and had killed several Negroes, 16 Negro houses had been burned, that there was a race war on, and that no officials or newspapers had taken any cognizance of it.

Judge R. N. Hardeman of that circuit stated that he had not heard of any mob violence or race war, and that if anybody had any dependable evidence he would call a special session of the grand jury to hear it and act upon it. The sheriff of the county says the jury should be called, as he has the evidence.

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But Mr. Caldwell didn't know when to stop. He went on and marked himself as un dependable. After saying the weekly papers have ignored his alleged murders, he arraigns the daily newspapers of Georgia in the following language:

"The daily papers of the state have failed to report the actions of the mob, and the news-gathering agencies have made no effort to report the situation to their members in other states. No local correspondents for the dailies can be found who have made reports, perhaps because of a rule in the book of instructions sent to local correspondents by the daily newspapers of Georgia: 'If a white man is murdered, telegraph it in; if a Negro is murdered, mail it in'."

Caldwell does not say "some" of or "one" of the daily papers of the state sent out such instructions. He says "the daily newspapers of Georgia"—that includes the two daily newspapers of Macon, Ga. Caldwell can hardly plead inadvertence. He is a newspaper man and writer of too much experience not to know the necessity for weighing his words and being sure of his facts. The instructions the two Macon dailies sent out to their correspondents read as follows on the question of what to wire and telephone, and what to send by mail:

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truth at least so far as the Macon dailies are concerned, certainly stamps him as unworthy of belief in other particulars.

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Charges of several negro kill-your country who butcher hogs with knives in Jefferson county were in more humanness than they kill negroes.

The article tells of Caldwell's visit when the reports that Erskine to Bartow. Caldwell planned the article re- The New Republic, another week-ferred to here was first received. The magazine, commenting on the report of conditions made at report editorially, declares that "it that time by Sheriff J. J. Smith, rings true" and denounces press asso- of Jefferson county, showing that calls a race war. The three deaths were in no way connected and that there was no "racial trouble" in the county, was published in The Constitution of Sunday, January 14, 1918.

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A fourth negro, Will Walker, hezations had failed to show any racial said, would have been lynched by the mob if he had not been killed by a policeman. Walker had tried to protect his life, and he was killed for his pains," the district of which Jefferson county is a part, announced late today. It is a fact that he would call Caldwell's charges must have been 10 or 12 years ago.

Listing the deaths of an unidentified negro for the magazine, "New Masses." He Caldwell says that the men who killed them "walk the streets in heroic strides. Their names are known; they will even boast of their crimes." Nevertheless, he charged, the coroner's jury "washed their hands of the deeds when it returned the verdict, 'Death at the hands of parties unknown.'"

"Two weeks ago," the article relates, "Will Jordan was killed by two white men who went to his house after midnight and shot him while he was asleep in bed with his wife. His six children were in the room with him. The next day the two men admitted they had killed the wrong negro—they were after someone else and they had gone into the Jordan house by mistake. The killers were acquitted. They promised the jury they would kill the 'right' negro next time they went out shooting."

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Judge R. N. Hardeman of that circuit stated that he had not heard of any mob violence or race war, and that if anybody had any dependable evidence he would call a special session of the grand jury to hear it and act upon it. The sheriff of the county says the jury should be called, as he has the evidence. That scores Erskine Caldwell one for something, whatever it may turn out to be worth. If he had stopped there he would have been in much better position as to being entitled at least to the benefit of the doubt in the matter of veracity and starting an investigation in which the sheriff seems to support him as to necessity for a race war.

But Mr. Caldwell didn't know when to stop. He went on and marked himself as independent. After saying the weekly papers have ignored his alleged murders, he arraigns the daily newspapers of Georgia in the following language:

"The daily papers of the state have failed to report the actions of the mob, and the news-gathering agencies have made no effort to report the situation to their members in other states. No local correspondents for the dailies can be found who have made reports, perhaps because of a rule in the book of instructions sent to local correspondents by the daily newspapers of Georgia: 'If a white man is murdered, telegraph it in; if a Negro is murdered, mail it in.'"

Caldwell does not say "some" of or "one" of the daily papers of the state sent out such instructions. He says "the daily newspapers of Georgia"—that includes the two daily newspapers of Macon, Ga. Caldwell can hardly plead inadvertence. He is a newspaper man and writer of too much experience not to know of the necessity for weighing his words and being sure of his facts. The instructions the two Macon dailies sent out to their correspondents read as follows on the question of what to wire and telephone, and what to send by mail:

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night of the same day it happens, use the mails."

That is all there is as to what to telegraph or phone and what to mail to the Macon dailies. And until Caldwell produces better evidence than his unsupported charges, we are not going to believe any other dailies in Georgia sent out any such instructions as he alleges. To catch him red-handed in one un-

And although, as to mob violence until the proof is in, the more we learn about Mr. Caldwell the less confidence we have in anything he says. If he will be reckless with the truth about Georgia dailies, he will be equally reckless about everything Georgian.

Killings-1934

Jury Probe of Negro Deaths Urged by Jefferson Sheriff

3 WHITE MEN HUNTED FOR KILLING OF NEGRO

LEXINGTON, Ga., Jan. 27.—Oglethorpe and Greene county officers joined forces tonight in a hunt for three white men accused of lining two negroes up against a wall near Woodville and shooting one of them fatally. The incident occurred near the Oglethorpe-Greene county line in north central Georgia. Sheriff T. D. Watkins, of Oglethorpe county, said he was informed that the white men accused the negroes of stealing whisky from them. One of the negroes escaped. Sheriff Watkins said a reward of \$200 had been offered for the negro's actual slayer.

LOUISVILLE, Ga., Jan. 27.—(A)—Amplifying previous statements, Sheriff J. J. Smith of Jefferson county tonight said he was prepared to furnish evidence necessary for an immediate grand jury investigation of charges that negroes had been put to death by white men in Bartow. The charges first came to light in a magazine article written by Erskine Caldwell, Georgia writer, who said three negroes had been killed in the county and a fourth was saved from lynching when he was shot by an officer.

Sheriff Smith's statement was made after Judge R. N. Hardeman, of the middle Georgia circuit, in a formal statement said, "If any citizen or public official will furnish to the solicitor-general of the circuit any evidence upon which the grand jury can act with reference to the alleged lawlessness at Bartow, I shall not hesitate to call the grand jury into special session."

Advised of the judge's statement, Sheriff Smith said "You can say that the sheriff is prepared to furnish the evidence necessary for an immediate grand jury investigation. Tell them I reiterate that it is necessary to call the grand jury in special session and I'll have the evidence ready for them." The sheriff added that he had nothing to say. "I think that is enough," he said in reply to a question. "I am waiting and anxious to get this thing over with."

In his lengthy statement, Judge Hardeman said, "It would be folly and childishness to convene a grand jury" until sufficient evidence can be produced.

"Crimination and recrimination, criticism and abuse get you nowhere," the judge said.

"The public is concerned with the real truth. Because of the position I occupy as judge of the circuit, I can-

not and will not discuss the merits of any particular incident. . . . "Everybody regrets indeed that the life of a negro has been taken. . . . There is not the slightest suggestion of a wave of crime, or race war or intolerance in the county of Jefferson."

Judge Hardeman mentioned the deaths of three negroes—Will Walker on the night of November 10, 1933; Ernest Bell last New Year's Day, and an unidentified man whose body was found near Bartow on January 3.

"Nobody either justifies or excuses the killings, because the facts connected with the homicides are unknown," he said. "Unfortunately it has been published that these occurrences were not brought to the attention of the grand jury. Certainly they were not, as the two latter homicides occurred nearly two weeks after the grand jury adjourned, the grand jury having been in session only one day, to-wit, December 18, 1933.

"As to the alleged burning of 14 houses, the physical facts speak for themselves. It is possibly true there have been 14 houses burned and possibly a great many more, in every district in this county, in the last quarter of a century.

"But this statement about 14 houses being burned naturally tends to create the impression that they were negro houses burned after the aforesaid unfortunate incident. The real physical facts are that there has not been a fire of any kind, white or black, in nearly a year in or around Bartow. . . .

"It is certainly established beyond all doubt, without going into details, that this homicide (Ernest Bell whose body was found in a well) had no connection whatever with the duel between the town marshal and the colored man (Will Walker) on November 19."

In his article published in the magazine, New Masses, Caldwell charged that the names of the men who killed Bell and the unidentified negro were known and that they "walk the streets in heroic stride." He charged that the coroner's jury "washed their hands of the deeds when they returned the verdict of death at the hands of parties unknown."

Solicitor-General Marvin Gross has announced Caldwell will be called before the regular grand jury next May to tell what he knows about the killings.

Informed tonight that Sheriff Smith had said he was "prepared to furnish the evidence," Judge Hardeman said, "still it must go to the solicitor-general."

Evidence or none, he said, he could not determine how soon a grand jury could be assembled. "How in the world could we assemble a grand jury to meet Monday?" he asked.

He said the grand jury at the last

regular term of Jefferson superior court, of which I. S. Caldwell, of Wrens, was the foreman, was adjourned and dismissed and that he would have to call a new jury.

This, he pointed out, would require time. He added that an adjourned term of Jefferson court meets Monday to hear several cases and on the first Monday of February he will be in Candler superior court at Metter, the second Monday in Toombs county and the first Monday in March in Washington court at Sandersville.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
January 30, 1934

Caldwell Caught Red-Handed

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"The daily papers of the state have failed to report the actions of the mob, and the news-gathering agencies have made no effort to report the situation to their members in other states. No local correspondents for the dailies can be found who have made reports, perhaps because of a rule in the book of instructions sent to local correspondents by the daily newspapers of Georgia: 'If a white man is murdered, telegraph it in; if a Negro is murdered, mail it in.'"

Caldwell does not say "some" of or "one" of the daily papers of the state sent out such instructions. He says "the daily newspapers of Georgia"—that includes the two daily newspapers of Macon, Ga. Caldwell can hardly plead inadvertence. He is a newspaper man and writer of too much experience not to know the necessity for weighing his words and being sure of his facts. The instructions the two Macon dailies sent out to their correspondents read as follows on the question of what to wire and telephone, and what to send by mail:

"Never use telephone or telegraph except for spot news, such as death of a prominent citizen, fire of some magnitude, murder, accident involving serious injuries and deaths, shootings, suicides, court action in criminal cases of unusual interest and important civil litigation, elections, jail-breaks, criminal assault, damage to property and crops by storms. If the mails can get this kind of news to us before 8:30 o'clock on the night of the same day it happens, use the mails."

That is all there is as to what to telegraph or phone and what to mail to the Macon dailies. And until Caldwell produces better evidence than his unsupported charges, we are not going to believe any other dailies in Georgia sent out any such instructions as he alleges. To catch him red-handed in one untruth at least so far as the Macon dailies are concerned, certainly stamps him as unworthy of belief in other particulars.

And although, as to mob violence until the proof is in, the more we learn about Mr. Caldwell the less confidence we have in anything he says. If he will be reckless with the truth about Georgia dailies, he will be equally reckless about everything Georgian.

LITERARY TUMBLE-BUGS.

A recently published sensational article by one Erskine Caldwell, in which numerous deaths of negroes in Jefferson county, Georgia, are charged to the existence of racial troubles, is, on the face of it, another instance of the work of a literary sensationalist, willing to besmirch the good name of a whole community in order to attract attention. 1-26-34

According to him, Jefferson county has within recent months been the scene of at least three brutal killings of negroes by bands of white men, "with the probability that there have been 10 or 20 more." The killers are known, writes this newest addition to the ranks of the sensationalists, but

they continue "to walk the streets with heroic strides, even boasting of their crimes."

The Caldwell outburst is similar to that by which Robert F. Burns, by maligning Georgia, escaped just punishment and gathered in thousands of dollars from his writings and from the movies. Evidence that he is not the persecuted saint

he poses to be is to be found in the fact that he wound up in the clutches of the law in the state which gave him refuge.

Now comes Caldwell, who, in an obscure magazine, makes an equally groundless attack on the citizens of one of the finest counties in Georgia. There are no better people in Georgia, or any other state, than those who live in Jefferson county. Descendants of the first settlers of the state, Louisville, the county seat, having been the capital for many years, they are worthy exponents of the high principles handed down to them by their outstanding forbears.

There is no more law-abiding community in the state and no

county in which the negroes and the whites, who have lived together for many generations, enjoy more peaceful relations.

There should be some way in which to protect such communities from the calumny of literary tumble-bugs, who are willing to stop at nothing to gain notoriety by which to reap ill-gotten gains.

GROUP ASKS PROBE OF NEGRO KILLINGS

Atlanta Constitution

2-4-34

Interracial Body Says Negroes in Jefferson "Live in State of Fear."

Atlanta, Ga.

The interracial commission said in a statement here Tuesday that negroes in Jefferson county at Bartow "are living in a state of fear" following recent killings and beatings of members of their race in that section.

The commission, which is composed of leading white and negro citizens of the south, joined in a demand for an investigation, it said, "after careful investigation of the conditions in that community conducted by Dr. Arthur Raper, of the commission's research staff."

At Louisville, the county seat, Superior Court Judge R. N. Hardeman said Tuesday he would follow any recommendations made by Solicitor-General Marvin Gross.

The commission in its statement said "the sheriff of Jefferson county is wholly right in demanding an immediate investigation of recent killings and beatings of negroes in and around Bartow."

The present agitation is for a special session of the grand jury which otherwise would not meet until May. Solicitor-General Gross has already said that the entire matter would be laid before the grand jury in May and that he would summon Erskine Caldwell, southern author, who charged that the negroes had been killed by white men.

"Since the middle of November," said the commission's statement, "three negroes have been killed, two others have been severely beaten and a material witness to two of these affairs has been run out of town. The two who were beaten are now in jail, one of them under indictment for assault and battery. Meantime, though the identity of white participants in these affairs is well known, not one of them has been indicted, or even put under arrest. In view of these facts, the sheriff is quite right in demanding an investigation and in offering to put evidence before the grand jury.

"The roll of recent negro victims is as follows: Will Walker, killed

by the town marshal of Bartow on the night of November 19; Belvin Williams, severely beaten by a group of white men on the same evening; Ernest Bell, killed and thrown into a well on the night of December 31; Sam Outler, severely beaten on the same night, and an unidentified negro, found dead on the roadside 10 days later. Further back, in September, 1932, there were two floggings of negroes, in one of which a girl, accused of stealing clothes, was the victim.

"The trouble in November grew out of a drinking party involving Williams, Walker and a number of drunken white men. When the marshal attempted to arrest Walker each shot the other, the marshal being wounded seriously and Walker fatally. Williams was severely beaten by the group with whom he had been drinking and except for the arrival of county officers would most likely have been killed.

"The killing and flogging on the night of December 31 also grew out of a drinking party involving two negroes and two white boys, going together in the negroes' car in search of bootleg whisky. The next morning the body of one of the negroes was found in the well and the other was at his mother's home suffering from a severe beating.

"Since these tragedies so far have gone unchallenged by the courts and the white citizenship, the negroes of the community are living in a state of fear, so much so that a negro night school at Bartow has been virtually abandoned and night church attendance has been reduced almost to the vanishing point. Negroes feel little assurance of protection at the hands either of the law or of their white neighbors. The officers and courts are culpable in that so far they have taken no steps to investigate these crimes and bring the guilty to justice, and the law-abiding citizens cannot be excused for permitting a few irresponsible to terrorize the negro population with impunity. Vigorous legal steps are imperatively demanded by the circumstances, and the citizenship of the community should follow the sheriff's leadership and see that this demand is met promptly and honestly by the courts.

"The reported burning of 14 homes was found to be true, but all were owned by white people, all were vacant at the time and all were insured. Furthermore, these burnings began in 1929, and none has occurred since the recent interracial troubles broke out last November."

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
January 31, 1934

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Macon, Ga. Telegraph
January 29, 1934

We Don't Believe It

The weight of evidence is in favor of the theory that the alleged exposure by Erskine Caldwell of a "race war" in Jefferson county is an inexcusable piece of sensationalism, fostered by the radical sheet, The New Masses, with the malodorous International Labor Defense bidding, as usual, for a little free advertising.

We cannot believe that Judge R. N. Hardeman and Solicitor General Marvin Gross, of the Middle circuit, together with other leading citizens of Jefferson county, would lend themselves to a conspiracy of silence as to any real outbreak of racial antagonism in that section of the state.

Caldwell charges that "at least three Negroes" have been killed by gangs of white men, two others are "missing" and several are under protective arrest, while 14 houses—with the implication that they were Negro houses—had been burned.

Sifting out the facts we find that early in December one Negro was killed by the Bartow town marshal who was attempting to arrest him for drunkenness and that in the pistol duel the marshal received wounds which were almost fatal.

Another Negro was found dead near the city limits of Bartow, with every evidence of having been killed in a drunken brawl by one of his own race.

An unidentified Negro was found 10 days later across the line in Washington county.

The positive statement is made by Solicitor General Gross that, while a number of houses have been burned in Bartow during the past few months, all of them were vacant and were owned by white people.

On this slender basis of facts Caldwell builds up a weird story which he trumpets to the

world—so far as The New Masses and The New Republic circulate—to the effect that a race war in one of the most cultured and law-abiding counties of Georgia has brought on a reign of terror and that the courts are indifferent or powerless.

The Rev. I. S. Caldwell, of Wrens, father of Erskine Caldwell, gives out a version of the situation in Jefferson county tending to support the story written by his son. He charges that 25 automobiles were seen near the spot where the dead body of the unidentified Negro was found. He charges that on December 31, crowds of men "numbering near 200" were seen on the streets of Bartow, "some being white, some black." He alleges that "the report is" that there were witnesses to the murder of the Negro killed on January 1 and that they saw his body thrown into a well.

He says further that only six Negroes appeared on the streets of Bartow last Saturday and that the Jefferson county sheriff is holding two Negroes in jail to prevent "a threatened lynching."

It may well be that one good reason why some of these details have not appeared in the newspapers is that they are not true, but whether printed or not it is difficult to understand how the existence of such a situation could be so completely smothered that the rumor would not get abroad in reliable quarters by word of mouth.

We feel sure that the Jefferson county authorities will go to the bottom of the entire situation and make public the facts, but the charge of a race war in Jefferson county is distinctly discounted by the source from which it comes.

Killings-1934

Illinois,

TWO ELECTROCUTED FOR SLAYING NEGRO

Youths Die In Chair For Murder
On Friday, The 13th

By United Press.

CHICAGO, Oct. 12.—Two negro youths were executed today for the shootnig of a negro patrolman on Friday, the 13th of April.

Aloñzo McNeil, 29, went to the electric chair at 12:52 a.m. His companion, George Walker, 20, died 10 minutes later.

McNeil joked with his guards as he walked to the chair about today being Friday, the 13th.

"I fooled the calendar that much," he said.

Killings-1934

Indiana

JUST ANOTHER MURDER OF JUST ANOTHER NEGRO SENDS YEAR'S TOTAL TO SIX

Georgia Power company employe, and was stolen from her home in Stanislaus circle about the time the "Vineville prowler" entered several women's bedrooms and removed articles from many homes in the section early in July.

Macon detectives believe the Negro left Macon shortly afterward, but last night had not checked to determine whether Willie Williams, held in Fort Worth, Texas, and claimed by Terre Haute authorities, was known here. The car was returned to Miss Tabor early this month.

"Just another murder" has been added to the city's crime record for 1934.

Just another Negro has been sent to his death by another Negro.

The sixth victim for the year is Howard Graves, 34, 1139 East Fifteenth street, shot and fatally wounded early Sunday at his home by Earl Kay, of the same address, during an argument.

Graves, with bullet wound in the left lung and abdomen, was found by police sitting helplessly on the front porch of his home. Weakened by the loss of blood, he was picked up and rushed to the City hospital, where he died several hours later.

Kay, admitting to officers that he had shot Graves, was arrested and held on a charge of murder. Lucy Kay, his wife, was held for investigation.

Kay told the police that Graves had accused him of improper relations with his wife who had left him and asserted that he was going to kill him (Kay). He said Graves drew a knife and slashed at him. He drew a gun which he carried at all times and fired three shots two striking Graves.

Before he died, Graves denied to police that he had drawn a knife during the argument, and asserted that Kay was in the habit of carrying a gun. Asked by him why he did so, he said Kay replied, "Because I want to be a tush-hog."

3 Negroes Confess Circus Train Slaying

LaGRANGE, Ind., July 28. (AP)—Three negroes arrested here late today, confessed, according to an announcement from the sheriff's office, that they participated in the murder and robbery on a train carrying the

Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey circus into Indiana.

Names of the three were withheld for the time. The shooting and robbery occurred near Howe, Ind. Anthony Larusso, 26, of Newark, N. J., was slain when he attempted to resist the robbers. William Smith, Chicago, was wounded in trying to help Larusso.

Dexter Fellows, circus press agent, said Larusso was not employed by the circus. He said the man merely was riding on the circus train.

POLICE IN TEXAS CAPTURE SLAYER

Negro Wanted in Indiana Believed Connected in Series of Burglaries Here

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., Aug. 30 (AP)—Local authorities will claim custody of Willie Williams, alias Gastor Slaughter, 35, Negro held at Fort Worth, Texas, on a burglary charge, as the man who shot and killed Patrolman Walter Lanfair of the Terre Haute police force in an escape here Aug. 3. Detective James Mitchell will leave for Texas Friday morning with a warrant charging first degree murder.

The Negro has been tentatively identified by photographs as having stayed at a home here the night before the slaying, and having an automobile stolen from Macon, Ga. The car was abandoned by the killer as he fled from police after a burglary attempt. A second car, stolen nearby and used by the slayer in his escape, was recovered the next day at Evansville, Ind.

Car Returned Here
The Ford V-8 automobile which was abandoned in Terre Haute, Ind., when a Negro killed Patrolman Lanfair belonged to Miss Ruth Tabor,

Killings-1934

Colored Youth Convicted of Slaying White Man Is Paroled

JURY SIGNS CLEMENCY PETITION

By Everett Wadsworth, Staff Writer

In the presence of a crowded courtroom of eager curiosity seekers, anxious friends and state officials of law and order, a "new deal" in justice at the bar for the Negro originated in the capital city of the tall corn state when Thomas Rowland, 20, Negro, convicted of manslaughter was paroled Saturday by District Judge Frank S. Shankland in which the courageous jurist upheld the rights of Negroes to participate in all the rights and privileges of the government.

4-6-34
In granting clemency, the judge said: "I don't believe you intended to kill anyone. I'm taking the jury's verdict that you are guilty, but I am not saying what my belief is. . . . I can well understand the provocation you must have had when someone called you a black son of—. I think I know who you intended to hit with that brick but I don't believe you intended to kill anyone."

Des Moines, Iowa
Never before in the annals of American courts has it been recalled that a Negro ever was paroled from the bench for slaying a white man. The state was represented by Carl A. Burkman, county attorney and C. Edwin Moore, assistant county attorney. Charles P. Howard, Negro criminal lawyer, was defense attorney.

Guilty of Manslaughter
After a trial, which lasted eight days, Rowland, who was indicted for murder, was found guilty of manslaughter Saturday, March 24, of Negroes. Suddenly, out of the dark, hurling a brick which struck Ira A. Fisher, 34, white, in a fight occurring at the Roadside settlement house. On that night, a crowd of white people were outside awaiting admittance to a dance which was to begin at eight o'clock. Several Negro boys came up and the locked doors were opened admitting them to the recreation and club rooms. The white people becoming impatient and highly incensed because Negroes were being allowed to enter first, began to swear and threats.

On death a few minutes later.
MORE EVEN JUSTICE
Attorney Howard said to the judge in behalf of Rowland: "The boy has never been in trouble before. He is the sole support of his father, mother and sisters. I don't know how they will survive without him. Knowing this boy as I do and viewing this case in its entirety, I still have an abiding faith in his innocence. Considering it all I believe a more even justice can be given by paroling him." After sentencing Rowland to a term not exceeding eight years at Anamosa, men's shouting "Not another black son of a reformatory, Judge Shankland said: "—, will enter this building ahead of me!" emphasizing his anger by tripping the Negro. Rowland went to the basement and returned with four other boys. He struck Garner, knocking him down; in the melee, Mrs. Bertha Wieland, white, was struck. Seeing this white woman hit, Fisher started swearing and rushed to

250 People Petition
"Regarding a parole, it is true I have received a petition asking for clemency signed by more than 250 persons. I have before me a similar petition signed by members of the jury. The foreman was the first member of the jury to come and see me and has been in to see me at least ten

times since.

The jurist, who is a firm adherent of the parole system, continued: "A judge is condemned every time he grants a parole but I care nothing for this I know I'm criticized every time I parole anyone The responsibility rests on me."

"The Responsibility Is On Me"

Citing incidents proving that the police officers are partial, and with scathing denunciations, Judge Shankland struck a forceful blow at race prejudice and the Negro injustice. He told Rowland in conclusion: "I have a number of letters from prominent city residents asking for you a parole. In arriving at this decision whether or not I should parole you, I must take into consideration, the record in the case, your future and the effect my decision will have upon society. The responsibility rests on me. I am going to give you another chance; don't humiliate these persons who have signed this petition, your friends who have written these letters, your lawyer and me by violating your parole."

Killings-1934

Woman Gets Life

At Second Trial

Negro Accused of Complicity in
Murder Also Sentenced

FRANKLINTON, La., Jan. 5 (P)—Mrs. Allie Mae Purvis, 38-year-old grandmother, recently convicted for the murder of her husband, today escaped death on the gallows when she was granted a new trial, immediately pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

The unexpected change in the status of the case was apparently based on the fact that Mrs. Purvis was said to be in ill health. Judge C. Ellis Ott of the 22nd judicial district court granted the new trial at the request of District Attorney C. Sidney Frederick, who prosecuted Mrs. Purvis and in response to a petition signed by all the jurors who brought in the capital verdict against the woman in her trial here last month.

Life imprisonment was likewise given to Louis Richardson, the 18-year-old Negro boy alleged to have been hired by Mrs. Purvis to push her husband, Robert L. Purvis, 48, into Pearl river during a fishing trip last July. The Negro was not scheduled for trial until February, but appeared in court today and pleaded guilty.

LIFE FOR KILLING NEGRO
Mississippian Sentenced In Court
At Baton Rouge

BATON ROUGE, La., March 29.—(AP)—Benjamin F. Rails, of McComb, Miss., was convicted in district court today of murdering Sam Carmena, Negro street car driver, several months ago on an East Baton Rouge Parish slummy road. Rails was found guilty without capital punishment, but sentenced carrying life sentence. District Attorney John Fred Odom, asked a verdict of guilty as charged which would have automatically carried the death penalty, asserting that Rails hired Carmena's automobile, shot the negro and took his car to Mississippi, where he was arrested.

See: Killings-1933

Mississippian Guilty
Of Inciting Negroes

MONROE, LA., April 17.—(P)—Accused of impersonating a Federal officer while allegedly fomenting an "uprising" among rural negroes of Union

Parish, Louisiana and Union County, Arkansas, last Winter, Houston Burnside, of Jackson, Miss., pleaded guilty to the charges when he was called to trial before Federal District Judge Ben C. Dawkins here.

Passing of sentence was deferred pending disposition of separate State charges of inciting to riot, on file against Burnside in the Union Parish Court at Farmerville, La.

His brother, W. C. Burnside, also of Jackson, Miss., was recently sentenced to five years imprisonment on the Federal charge of impersonating an officer. Authorities alleged the two men posed as Federal agents and organized a subversive secret society among negroes of the section, promising members free lands and food from the government in exchange for membership fees. The society was broken up in a series of raids in which a score of negroes were arrested and one of them slain in resisting officers.

Machine Gun Fire
Kills Crazy Negro

NEW ORLEANS, LA., May 11.—(P)—Pete Sylves, crazed negro, was killed late today by a burst of machine gun fire from a New Orleans policeman after he had shot and wounded two persons this morning near Hammond, La.

For five hours the negro held a small arm of officers and citizens at bay by firing a rifle from behind a tree.

Another member of the New Orleans squad, Detective Baton, was shot in the forehead. Physicians said he was not seriously wounded.

Jules Morel, a deputy sheriff of Plaquemines Parish, was shot in the shoulder by the negro this morning when he sought to arrest him on a charge of carrying concealed weapons.

Negro Accused In
Dock Strike Death

NEW ORLEANS, May 31.—(P)—Philip Franklin, 47-year-old negro, was charged with murder in criminal district court here today in connection with the death of William Dove, 47-year-old negro, in an altercation in the riverfront "strike."

Dove, who was a peddler and was beaten by three negroes last week as a vegetable peddler for a few sacks of potatoes, went to his death on the gallows of parish prison here at 12:05 p. m. today.

His victim was Roy Landry, a French market vegetable peddler, beaten to death with a blunt instrument October 17, 1931, and robbed of \$15 in cash and 23 sacks of Irish potatoes. Walton, 24, was captured a year later in Memphis, Tenn.

The "strike" called by the old Longshoremen's Unions, went along quietly today.

The old unions protested that steamship companies were giving work only to "company" union members, but the steamship companies replied that the old

unions had long ago been repudiated. Work of loading and unloading vessels has proceeded almost normally since the "strike" was called.

TRAINMAN AMBUSHED
NEAR BATON ROUGE

BATON ROUGE, La., July 11.—(P)—The shooting and wounding of Willie Barrett in a freight train engine cab outside of Baton Rouge, investigated today by the sheriffs of the railroad special officers as another of an extended series of ambush gunshot attacks upon Yazoo & Mississippi Valley railroad negro firemen in Louisiana and Mississippi during the past several years.

Barrett was struck in the leg by a load of buckshot fired beside the tracks. The attack was described as similar to ambush volleys that have killed six negro firemen in all on the Y. & M. V. line and wounded several others. Four of the six were killed in Mississippi. A railroad reward of \$5,000 has been offered for information regarding the assailants.

FILLING A GREAT NEED IN THE SOUTH

The Louisiana Legislature has just passed a law authorizing the construction and maintenance of a training school for Negro delinquent boys, with a \$25,000 appropriation for 1934 and \$30,000 for 1935.

This act of the Louisiana legislature is to be heartily commended, inadequate and tardy though the appropriation be. Few Southern States have seen the necessity and justice of providing such institutions for wayward Negro youth. They have been satisfied to thrust them into prisons and road camps with vicious, hardened criminals, a prey to nameless lust, eager disciples of yeggs, murderers, perverts and thieves.

Many more such institutions are sorely needed throughout the South and in some parts of the North. Where they do not exist the Negro community must take upon itself, upon its own heavily burdened shoulders, this heavy social load, which is growing heavier yearly. It is as much the duty of the State to supply such institutions as it is for it to supply educational institutions and protection from fire and flood.

NEGRO DIES IN NOOSE
FOR 'POTATO' KILLING

NEW ORLEANS, July 27.—(P)—Willie Walton, 24, who killed a man who killed him last week as a vegetable peddler for a few sacks of potatoes, went to his death on the gallows of parish prison here at 12:05 p. m. today.

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NEGRO HELD IN KILLING
FOUND SHOT TO DEATH

FRANKLINTON, La., July 29.—(P)—Franklin was quiet tonight after a mob formed last night in front of the parish jail in which nine negroes were held in connection with the killing yesterday of Deputy Sheriff Delos C. Wood.

One of the negroes, Moise Wilson, shot through the abdomen in an exchange of gunfire with the deputy sheriff, was found dead in the jail today.

Sheriff J. L. Brock, who persuaded the crowd to disperse last night after several hours, said he did not unlock the jail and go inside until this morning because he was afraid the crowd would surge in.

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Louisianan's Body Found;
Sheriff Hunts For Negro

WINNFELD, La., July 25.—(P)—The body of Roy Gorham, 22, stabbed three times was found today in a thicket near his father's farm two miles from here, and Sheriff Bryant Sholars immediately launched a search for Eugene "Jabbo" Woods, 19-year-old negro who was last reported seen with Gorham Saturday.

The body's shoes, trousers and shirt were missing as well as \$4 or \$5 he was known to have had when he disappeared. He had been stabbed in the chest and right side and his throat had been cut.

NEGRO SUSPECT HELD
IN LOUISIANA KILLING

WINNFELD, La., July 26.—(P)—Eugene Woods, 19-year-old negro, was in the unnamed jail today for sale-keeping after a widespread search last night following the discovery of the body of Roy Gorham, 22, late yesterday in a thicket near the farm of his father, J. R. Gorham, two miles from Winnfield.

Officers said Gorham had apparently died from knife wounds in the body and throat. Gorham, the officials said, had not been seen since Saturday night when he was allegedly in the company of Woods. He was reported drinking with another white youth and two negroes.

NEGRO TO BE HANGED
FOR KILLING DEPUTY

FRANKLINTON, La., Aug. 7.—(P)—Eugene Woods, 28-year-old negro, today was under sentence to be hanged for the killing on July 21 of Deputy Sheriff Delos C. Wood.

Woods, wounded in the leg, was supported by deputy sheriffs when he was sentenced in district court here yesterday by Judge C. Ellis Ott.

The date of execution will be set by Governor O. K. Allen.

MURDER CONFESSED
BY LOUISIANA NEGRO

SHREVEPORT, La., Aug. 8.—(P)—Officers said today that Eugene Woods, 20-year-old negro, had confessed to slaying Roy Gorham, a young farmer, near Winnfield July

Gorham was stabbed to death with his own pocket knife and Woods was arrested three days after the slaying.

WILSON TO HANG, MOTHER, BROTHER ALSO INDICTED

Courier 8-18-34
Pittsburgh
Man Whose Life Was Forfeited By Jury When They
Heard Mob Was After Him, Is Denied
New Trial.

Editor's Note: Here is a case for the N. A. A. C. P. Railroaded to his death following admission of some of the members of an all-white Dixie jury that they found him guilty of first-degree murder "in order to save him from the mob," Jerome Wilson of Louisiana was denied a new trial last week.

But the N. A. A. C. P., in order to fight this case and save this youth's life, must have MONEY.

It was to carry cases of this type to the highest courts that The Pittsburgh Courier launched its NATIONAL DEFENSE FUND CAMPAIGN!

Will you pay \$1.00 to maintain the race's Self-Respect, and save the life of this boy? ACT NOW! DON'T DELAY!

REMEMBER!! Dixie Justice moves with bewildering speed.

FRANKLINTON, La., Aug. 16.—(ANP)—Judge C. Ellis Ott in District court here last Monday overruled a motion for a new trial for Jerome Wilson, convicted of killing Deputy Sheriff Delos Wood, and sentenced Wilson to be hanged.

M. I. Varnado of Bogalusa and B. M. Miller of Covington, white attorneys for Wilson, had sought a new trial on grounds that they had not had sufficient time to prepare his defense, that Wilson was in no physical condition for trial and that the jurors' verdict had been influenced by news of an attempt to lynch Wilson in the courtroom, which had improperly reached them.

Judge Ott would not permit defense counsel to question the jurors on the last point.

Wood was slain when he attempted to invade the premises of the Wilson family without a search warrant, or a warrant for arrest. Indicted for murder with Jerome is his mother, Temple, and his brother, Luther.

Killings-1934

SAM JONES AND HIS DEFENSE

DAZED at the verdict, scarcely able to realize that he could go his way a free man, Sam Jones of Princess Anne, on the notorious Eastern Shore of Maryland, walked out of the courtroom of Judge Robert F. Duer (the man who thought George Arno Wood would not be lynched) and back to his humble home, acquitted by a white jury on the charge of brutally slaying Mrs. Margaret Brumley, a white farm woman, on New Year's eve. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People handled the case.

In the same locality and for a similar offense, Eucl Lee, also an elderly Negro, was tried, sentenced and electrocuted last December, after the International Labor Defense had fought two years for his life. Sam Jones, defended by the N. A. A. C. P., is free less than seven weeks after his arrest. Comparisons may be odious, but they are generally instructive.

Sam Jones was defended in court by State Senator L. Creston Beauchamp (white), from the Eastern Shore, who was advised by Dean Charles H. Houston of the N. A. A. C. P. legal staff. Feeling ran high against Jones when he was arrested, but his defense was so well prepared that his innocence was proved to the satisfaction of everyone.

Here is another concrete reason why every Negro should join the N. A. A. C. P.

NEGRO IS ACQUITTED IN MARYLAND KILLING

Princess Anne Jury Frees
Defendant in Slaying
of Woman.

PRINCESS ANNE, Md., Feb. 6.—(AP)—Sam Jones, 55-year-old negro, was acquitted in Somerset county circuit court late today of a charge of murdering Mrs. Margaret Brumley at Marion Station last New Year's Eve. Jones appeared dazed when the verdict was returned. He had to be told twice that he was free.

There was only a slight rustle among the spectators in the courtroom as the decision of the jury was announced.

Before the verdict was read, Judge Robert F. Duer cautioned against any demonstration, declaring it would be ruled contempt of court. Judge Joseph L. Bailey, who also sat on the case, thanked the court for the orderly way in which it received the verdict.

From the witness stand this morning Jones had denied any knowledge of the murder and presented an alibi showing he was at the home of Frank Borden, who lives near the Brumley home, at the time doctors estimated Mrs. Brumley was killed.

200 Lawyers Here Protest Charges Against Maryland Attorney.

More than 200 lawyer members of the American Civil Liberties Union, the International Juridical Association, the Socialist Lawyers League and the legal staff of the International Labor Defense, held an indignation meeting yesterday afternoon at the New School for Social Research against the disbarment proceedings against Bernard Ades, attorney for Eucl Lee, a Negro executed in Maryland last Autumn for murder.

A list of charges against the attorney read at the meeting alleged that he was not being tried because of unethical practice but because he appeared as counsel for Lee not for the proper professional purpose of defending the defendant and protecting him in his constitutional rights, but actually and primarily for the collateral purpose of presenting and exploiting the

views of an organization by which the said Bernard Ades was then employed." Ades was acting for the International Labor Defense.

Isadore Polier recounted the history of the case and said the two lower court judges had summarily suspended Ades without what he termed "sufficient evidence." A. S. Cutler of the American Civil Liberties Union said the disbarment of Ades would banish forever the legal protection of the poor and oppressed who could not afford adequate counsel. Leo Gallagher, International Labor Defense counsel of California, characterized the proceedings as the entering wedge of a Nazi form of jurisprudence in the United States. At the conclusion of the meeting a resolution was adopted and sent to Ades in Maryland, praising him for his legal efforts in behalf of Lee and offering support in his efforts to preserve his right to practice in that State. The disbarment charges were preferred by United States District Court Judge William C. Coleman of Maryland, and the hearing is to be in Baltimore on Wednesday.

BALTIMORE, MD. MORNING SUN

MAY 2 1934

A CASE IN POINT

In ordinary circumstances the Negro arrested for the slaying of a policeman in Somerset county will not be brought to trial until next September, four months hence, when the grand and petit juries are scheduled to meet. A special session of court could be convened but objection has often been offered to this procedure.

An extraordinary session, it has been argued, might militate against a fair trial for a defendant. The fact that the case was considered of such importance as to call for extraordinary procedure would, it is contended, be calculated to excite prejudice against an accused man. It was largely in deference to this view that the commission, appointed by Governor Ritchie to recommend changes in administration of the criminal law, urged that a law be enacted requiring courts with their grand and petit juries throughout the State to convene monthly, thus to be prepared for prompt action without the excitement of special procedure. The proposal authorized the judges to dispense with the services of grand and petit jurors if there was no necessity for the

their convening at monthly periods.

This change had the indorsement of the commission, which was headed by State Attorney Herbert R. O'Connor, and upon which sat Chief Judge Carroll T. Bond, of the Court of Appeals; Chief Judge Samuel K. Dennis of the Supreme Bench; Attorney-General W. Preston Lane, former Governor Harrington and other well-known members of the bar. It was intended to meet just such an occasion as has arisen in Somerset and to provide for orderly and prompt trial, under normal procedure, of persons accused of crime that arouses excitement and indignation in a community. The proposal deserves consideration by the next Legislature.

NEGRO GETS LIFE TERM FOR KILLING OFFICER

CAMBRIDGE, Md., July 25.—(AP) Howard W. Jackson, negro, charged with the fatal slaying of Harry Daugherty, a white policeman, was found guilty of first-degree murder in three circuit court judges' court and sentenced to the penitentiary for life.

Ades Renews Race Issue in Court Answer

Combats Disbarment Plea
on Grounds of Association's Jim Crow Policy.

GROUP CHARGED WITH INCITING PREJUDICE

Conduct in Lee, Davis, and Jupiter Cases Defended.

The racial barrier maintained by the Bar Association of Baltimore City, white, was attacked anew, this week, in the answer of Bernard Ades, white attorney, to the association's disbarment proceedings, instituted against the

Communist attorney last month.

Mr. Ades's answer, filed with the clerk of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, Thursday, in accordance with an order to show cause why he should not be disbarred, was signed by Mr. Ades, Joseph H. Brodsky, white Communist lawyer of New York, and Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., Atlanta attorney.

Says Group Incites Prejudice
Questioning the propriety of the white bar association's being heard by the court in a complaint charging conduct "for the direct purpose of inciting race prejudice," Mr. Ades, in his answer, states:

"The petitioner does not represent the entire bar of this court, but represents only a part of the bar; viz: the male white lawyers, and is controlled by a group of lawyers who themselves incite race prejudice by systematically excluding colored lawyers from membership."

Refusal to Appear Explained

Mr. Ades further states that his only refusal to appear before the grievance committee of the association to answer their charges directly, was contingent upon the association's continued exclusion of members on account of race or color.

In defence of a press statement made last July, which the association had charged was grounds for disciplinary action, Mr. Ades declared the statement was made in answer to one by State Attorney Herbert R. O'Connor, which statement had also been published.

Conduct Defended

Other statements, cited in the association's petition as constituting conduct unbecoming a member of the bar, are defended on the ground that they were made in the course of a judicial proceeding before Judge Eugene O'Dunne, and in response to questions put to him by the court.

Allegations of professional misconduct, malpractice, fraud, deceit and conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice, in connection with the cases of Eucl Lee, George Davis and Page Jupiter, were denied in the answer.

Trial of the disbarment proceedings is expected to take place in September.

SEP 16 1934

Murders Among Negroes

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: During the last two years several colored men's lives have been snuffed out and the murderers have gone scot-free. During the last year three colored women have murdered their husbands and a coroner's jury has exonerated them. In one of the cases the woman testified that she bought the pistol with which she murdered her husband, yet she was exonerated by the coroner's jury on a plea of self-defense.

The fact that all of this murdering is going on and no one is being punished proves conclusively that those in authority hold Negroes' lives cheap in this city, and serves notice on colored women that they are at liberty to murder their husbands at will. If a white man murders another white man, a thorough investigation is made. If a white woman murders her husband, a thorough investigation is made.

In the name of the law and justice, I call upon those in authority to investigate thoroughly the murdering of colored people in Baltimore.

HENRY F. ARNOLD.

Baltimore, Sept. 14, 1934.

**5 HURT IN RACE CLASH;
NEGRO IS ARRESTED**

DU PONT HEIGHTS, Md., Oct. 7. (AP)—Martin Davis, Annapolis negro, was arrested by Upper Marlboro police late tonight for investigation in connection with a fight between white people and negroes here in which five white persons were injured, three probably serious, earlier in the night.

Davis was arrested at his home by County Officer O'Farrell, who said the negro admitted he was present during the fight but denied he had taken part in it.

Bell quoted Davis as saying the trouble started following an argument when a negro's automobile blocked the road on which the white persons were riding. Davis claimed, Bell said, that the white people started the trouble.

The whites told officers they asked directions of a group of negroes and that insulting remarks were made by the negroes.

**5 Whites Injured
Fighting Negroes**

DU PONT HEIGHTS, MD., Oct. 7. (AP)—Five white persons were injured, three probably seriously, in a pitched fight with a crowd of negroes, here tonight. Squads of police from Upper Marlboro were sent to quell the trouble, but had made no arrests late tonight.

The injured, taken to casualty hospitals

in Washington, are:

Nobel Haley, 31, Flintville, Va., employee of the Virginia Prison Farm, possible fracture of the skull and of the collarbone.

Mrs. Lucille Haley, his wife, treated for shock.

Anthony Broccio, 50, Capital Heights, Md., lacerations of the lip, broken arm and possible broken jaw.

Clyde Culver, Capital Heights, broken out and the murderers have gone scot-free.

Miss Sadie Rehm, Capital Heights, created for shock.

The five white persons were occupants of one automobile. They told police that they stopped to ask directions of a group of negroes, which they estimated to number 30, and contended that some of the negroes made insulting remarks.

A fight ensued and the automobile was badly damaged, windows being broken out and ignition being torn away. Du Pont residents telephoned Upper Marlboro police for officers to stop the trouble and police there called Hyattsville for aid from county officers.

**DISBAR ATTORNEY
WHO BATTLED FOR
RIGHTS OF NEGROES**

Baltimore, Md.—(AP)—For challenging the lily-white jury practices of the Maryland courts, Bernard Ades, attorney for the International Labor Defense, was last week suspended from the practice of law for three months by the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City.

Acting as counsel for Ades, Joseph Brodsky of the staff of the International Labor Defense, charged that the Baltimore Bar Association, which brought the action against Ades, has violated its own charter and constitution by barring Negro attorneys and women from membership.

The proceedings against Ades grew out of the Euel Lee and other cases which Ades defended.

Brodsky demanded to know why the association has taken no action on a letter demanding that Negro lawyers and women be admitted to the organization, while at the same time pushing so vigorously the action against Ades. He forced Burdette B. Webster (white)

president of the bar group, to admit on the witness stand that a letter asking such admission for Negroes and women had been tabled

Killings - 1934

BOSTON, MASS.
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
MONITOR

MAR 21 1934

Discrediting the Eyewitness

AN ANCIENT theory of courts of law was that a fact established by the testimony of eyewitnesses could not be refuted or discredited by conflicting circumstantial testimony. Identification, verified on oath, has, however, sent many an innocent person to prison or to the gallows, proof of innocence appearing too late to rectify the error. Reported cases, scores of them compiled by those who are not ashamed to be classed as humanitarians, convince the student of the fallibility of human testimony, even in the absence of malice, dishonesty, or any desire to deceive. The eyewitness, as well as the eye as a witness, has often been discredited.

In Tennessee recently, according to newspaper accounts, the brother of a missing man and five Negroes accused with him, were released from custody when their supposed victim appeared in the flesh after an extended voluntary absence. The *corpus delicti* in this case had been established to the satisfaction of the prosecuting officials by the testimony of three persons. In Massachusetts recently, it is recalled, two innocent men were positively identified as the slayers of a person whom they had actually never seen and of whose existence they had never known. Willing, and probably honest eyewitnesses testified that they identified the two as the guilty suspects. Their mistake was admitted when a confession of guilt was made by persons who had not been suspected of this particular crime.

Should it not be agreed, even in the light of present-day experiences, while the guilty too often escape punishment, that those who have offended had better be permitted to go free rather than that one innocent person be sacrificed? Human justice, too commonly tempered by the varying moods of a free people, errs either on the side of mercy or in an effort to avenge itself unreasonably. The spirit of the mob smolders, only to be fanned into flame by fear or prejudice or hatred. The degree of vengeance sought is dependent, always, upon the temper of the mass, in the court room, upon the streets, and finally, in the home.

It is this wave, this moving tide of human emotions, which seems strangely to affect the thoughts and even the judgments of mankind. The tourist who is mystified and misled by the East Indian fakir is perhaps under no deeper

an illusion than the sincere eyewitness who has believed that he saw only what a distorted and disordered sense of things misled him into imagining that he had seen.

Killings - 1934

Call Mass Protest in Detroit Tonight on Frame-up of Negro

(Special to the Daily Worker)
DETROIT, Mich., May 21.—The International Labor Defense and League of Struggle for Negro Rights have taken over the case of James Victory, Negro worker and war veteran, who is being held on \$50,000 bond on framed up charge of having slashed a Southern white woman living here, Mrs. Kaye, with a razor.

Victory was arrested last Monday in connection with a terroristic hunt organized against Negro masses by Police Department and city officials. About 40 Negroes were arrested in a man hunt, which was whipped up by capitalist press. A mass protest meeting is being held 8 p. m. tomorrow at the Israel Baptist Church, 3900 Russell corner Leeland, under the auspices of the I. L. D. and L. S. N. R. Speakers include Harry Haywood, National Secretary L. S. N. R., Tony Gerlach, District Secretary I. L. D., Rev. McGahan of Israel Baptist Church, Frank Sykes, local L. S. N. R. Secretary, William Weinstone, District Organizer Communist Party, and Rev. John Bollens, American Civil Liberties Union, who will be chairman.

The I. L. D. has issued a statement exposing frame-up character of the arrest of Victory. The statement points out that workers, professionals, merchants, business people who know Victory well have been interviewed and have testified to his unimpeachable character. The statement demands:

Immediate release of Victory; end to terror against Negroes; immediate withdrawal of police details in Negro neighborhoods; no discrimination against Negro on jobs or relief; no interference with civil rights of Negroes; freedom of speech and of movement for Negroes in all parts of city.

Harry Haywood Tells of the Rising Terror Against Negroes

DEFENSE FORMED

Weinstone Urges White Workers Defend Negroes

By A. B. MAGIL
(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, May 23.—A mass movement to smash the frame-up of James Victory, Negro worker and war veteran, charged with having slashed a white woman with a razor, was launched last night at a spirited protest meeting of about 200 Negro and white workers, with Negroes in the overwhelming majority. The meeting was held in the Israel Baptist Church, 3900 Riopelle, under the joint auspices of the International Labor Defense and the League of Struggle for Negro Rights. The I. L. D. is handling the defense of Victory, with the co-operation of the L.S.N.R.

"The Victory frame-up is a local Scottsboro case," declared Harry Haywood, National Secretary of the L.S.N.R., "arising out of the whole campaign of terrorism against the Negro people and the importation of Southern methods into the North. This campaign of terror is sweeping the country and has reached a new height in the cold-blooded murder of Negro strikers in Alabama.

"The Scottsboro Case created a new nation-wide feeling against the oppression of the Negro people. It brought white workers into the struggle side by side with the Negro masses. If we are to prevent a second Scottsboro, we must organize a similar movement here in the Victory case."

Contrasts Treatment of Minorities in Soviet Union

Haywood dealt with the silence of Negro reformist leaders regarding the frame-up of Victory. "Is it possible," he asked, "that contributions to campaign funds of certain Negro politicians and to certain ministers by auto companies are responsible for this silence. This so-called leadership among the Negro people has failed. Negroes need a new kind of leadership of the type of Angelo Herndon, who is now in a Southern ruling class jail for trying to organize Negro and white workers in joint struggle.

"The frame-up of Victory brings home again the fact that only in the Soviet Union do former oppressed national minorities have true freedom as a result of the fact that workers have taken power and are building a Socialist Society."

Two Negro ministers, Rev. Williams of the Metropolitan Baptist Church and Rev. McGahee, Israel

Baptist Church, condemned the Victory frame-up and declared their readiness to join the fight to free him.

Frame-up Part of Attack on Whole Working Class

William Weinstone, District Organizer of the Communist Party declared the terror against the Negro people was part of the attack on the whole toiling population by the capitalist class and an attempt to cover up the horrible conditions under which Negroes are forced to live. Weinstone pointed out that the white workers must be the first to take up the fight in defense of Negroes and called for more determined struggle for Victory and defeat of the program of the millionaire auto manufacturers.

Sykes, local secretary of the L. S. N. R., pointed out the complicity of high city officials in attacks on the Negro masses of Detroit. He dealt with a speech made recently in Windsor, Canada, by Frank Cody, Detroit Superintendent of Schools, in which he said it turned his stomach to eat at the same table with Negroes. Sykes presented a resolution, which was unanimously adopted, demanding the removal of Cody.

For Victory Defense Committee

A resolution was also passed demanding the immediate release of Thaelmann and other anti-fascist fighters in Germany.

Tony Gerlach, District Secretary of the I. L. D., told the history of the Victory case and called for united mass fight to smash the frame-up.

Rev. John Bollens, American Civil Liberties Union, acted as chairman. A resolution was unanimously adopted condemning the frame-up and demanding the immediate release of Victory, immediate withdrawal of police details in Negro neighborhoods and cessation of terror against Negroes; no interference with civil rights of Negroes; freedom of speech and of movement for Negroes in all parts of the city; no discrimination against Negroes on jobs or relief.

A committee of Negro and white was elected to serve as the core of the Victory defense committee, and instructed to call a conference and develop a broad campaign for Victory through meetings, leaflets, etc., and to invite all Negro and white organizations that want to aid in the campaign to affiliate. The committee will also go to Mayor Couzens and demand release of Victory and the capitalist press with demand for retraction of vicious slanders against Victory and Negro people they printed in an effort to whip up anti-Negro hysteria.

"Trial" Date Set For Negro Worker Held in Detroit James Victory Is Held On Outrageous Bond of \$50,000

DETROIT, June 11.—The trial of James Victory, Negro worker and World War veteran, who has been framed up on a charge of having slashed a white woman with a razor, has been set for Thursday, June 21.

Victory is now in the county jail, held there on the outrageous bond of \$50,000. Under the slogan of "Prevent a Second Scottsboro Case In Detroit," the International Labor Defense and the League of Struggle for Negro Rights are organizing a broad mass campaign to free him. Victory defense committees have already been set up in a number of Negro churches, as well as in the Japanese Pacific organization, a Negro organization under bourgeois nationalist leadership. A delegation is also preparing to see Mayor Couzens to demand the release of this innocent Negro worker.

Victory was arrested May 14 in connection with a man hunt against Negroes, whipped up by the capitalist press, in the course of which about 40 Negroes were arrested and beaten. He has repudiated all efforts to drive the I. L. D. and its attorney, Maurice Sugar, out of the case. "I am glad that the same organization is defending me that defended the Scottsboro boys," he said.

A pamphlet, "The South Comes North—Detroit's Own Scottsboro Case," written by Harry Haywood, National Secretary of the L.S.N.R., is now being issued. All workers and organizations are urged to demand the immediate release of Victory.

Killings-1934

Mississippi.

MISSISSIPPI

TOWN STIRRED

OVER KILLING

Funeral Party Passes

Along Main Streets

LELAND, Miss., Oct. 19.—

This little delta city, which gained national attention some years ago, when white plantation owners refused to give aid to Race refugees during the flood disaster, is upset now over the cold-blooded slaying of Mrs. Belle Singleton, wealthy 78-year-old farmer by Dean Hebbe, a white deputy sheriff.

According to information obtained by police and the press the woman was shot down simply because she dared demand a loan which was long past due. White neighbors for quite some time have sought to take the property from the woman and were disappointed when the government redeemed her coveted farm.

One son, who works as a bellman in Hot Springs, Ark., was here for his mother's funeral but left town immediately thereafter in the night for fear of being lynched.

Just why the "good citizens" here permitted Mrs. Singleton's funeral cortege to pass down the main street of this white man's town is a mooted question. It is not known whether it followed the procedure of Dixie mobbists of dragging their hapless victims through the streets, or if it was in the form of a tribute to a respectable citizen who had been outrageously killed by a blood-thirsty and greedy official.

The authorities are mute on possible action against the slayer, who so far has given no reason for shooting the defenseless woman.

Small children can remember the disgrace that was heaped upon this delta "dugout" in connection with the distribution of Red Cross relief that was sent here for refugees during the washout by the flood.

So un-American and inhumane was the treatment accorded members of the Race at the time, the United States government stepped in and investigated the charges.

MISSISSIPPI NEGRO DIES FOR MURDER

Another Convicted Murderer Is Saved By Last Minute

Reprieve

JACKSON, MISS., Dec. 12.—(AP)—One negro slayer was executed in Mississippi today, and another, scheduled to be hanged tomorrow, was granted a last minute reprieve by a Supreme Court justice.

Obediah McKnight went to his death at Natchez in expiration of the murder of his wife, Mattie McKnight, whom he had confessed killing. The death trap was sprung at 10:03 a.m. and 22 minutes later the negro was pronounced dead.

At Jackson, Oliver Buckler, charged with the ax murder of another negro, was saved from the gallows at Greenville when Supreme Court Justice W. D. Anderson granted a stay of execution and an appeal from denial of a writ of error, coram nobis, in the Washington County Circuit Court.

Gov. Sennett Conner last week delayed the execution for a week to investigate last minute claims of Buckler's attorneys that the negro was insane at the time of the trial. In the meantime the attorneys went into Washington County Circuit Court with a motion for a new trial.

Killings-1934

OFFICER WHO KILLED NEGRO REINSTATED

Investigators Decide That
Messick Was Justified in
Slaying Autoist

James W. Messick, white patrolman who shot and killed William Slaughter, motorist, on January 7, has been exonerated of blame in the shooting and reinstated in the police department.

The white officer, who was off duty and not in uniform at the time of the killing, was suspended by Eugene C. Reppert, director of police, immediately following the slaying, pending an investigation. A coroner's jury, sitting Wednesday, January 10, freed Messick of all criminal liability in connection with Slaughter's death. Following this ruling, Director Reppert, not desiring to take full responsibility for deciding whether Messick should be reinstated following his exoneration by the coroner's jury, called in the five police captains of the city to act as a jury in deciding this question.

Find Killing Justifiable

After reading the statements made by witnesses and questioning Messick, the police jury decided that Messick was justified in killing Slaughter. Director Reppert abided by the decision of the captains and reinstated the officer.

Slaughter was shot and killed by the officer on Sunday night, January 7, following a minor traffic accident at Linwood boulevard and Woodland avenue. On the slippery street, Slaughter's car, stopped for the red light signal at the intersection, bumped into the car ahead. The impact pushed the other car into the auto in front of it. Little damage was done to the cars.

An argument followed and Slaughter, whose wife and 10-year-old daughter were with him, drove

officer should be reinstated without precedent at police headquarters.

In a similar case in 1932 when another white officer, Robert Dunsworth, while off duty and not in uniform, shot and killed Rudolph Clark, Director Reppert, taking all responsibility, refused to reinstate Dunsworth even after the officer had been exonerated of blame by a coroner's jury.

The five police captains who decided that Messick's action in killing Slaughter was justifiable are: Capt. Hugh Dougherty, Sheffield station; Capt. Thomas Sullivan, Flora avenue station; Capt. John Regan, headquarters station; Capt. J. L. Ghent, Country Club station; and Capt. Robert J. Coffey, Ninth street station.

Captain Coffey was named Chief of Police Tuesday, January 14, the Virgin Islands, and Africa have sent students to Morehouse college this year. The roster of the student body, published in the annual "M" book of information by the Student Activity committee, shows that 141, or slightly more than one-half of the 255 men in college this year, are residents of Georgia. Florida ranks second with 19 men in the college, Alabama third with 18, and Texas fourth with 17.

Three students in Morehouse came from outside the territorial United States: one from the Virgin Islands, and Africa have sent students to Morehouse college this year. The roster of the student body, published in the annual "M" book of information by the Student Activity committee, shows that 141, or slightly more than one-half of the 255 men in college this year, are residents of Georgia. Florida ranks second with 19 men in the college, Alabama third with 18, and Texas fourth with 17.

Negro Witness In Kidnaping Is Shot To Death

ST. LOUIS, May 12.—(AP)—John C. Johnson, 47-year-old negro indicted for the kidnaping of Dr. Isaac D. Kelley, was ambushed and slain by machine gunners tonight and police four hours later ordered the arrest of Mrs. Muench, accused "finger woman" in the abduction.

Detectives who went to Mrs. Muench's home were unable to find her. She is the wife of a St. Louis physician. Officers said they "wanted to talk to her" about the slaying of Johnson. The order was made despite a previous announcement by police that Mrs. Muench was not named in a confession made by Johnson. Johnson was killed at the home of a deputy sheriff.

Three other persons were fired upon by the two machine gunners as they fled, but were unharmed. Johnson was killed instantly.

The negro had been staying with the deputy sheriff, Harry D. Newbold, of St. Louis County, since his release on bond

a month ago. It was understood he had been making his home with the officer for safe-keeping because of a confession he supposedly made involving others in the kidnaping.

Officers said two machine-gunners parked their car about 50 yards from the Newbold home, crept behind a low fence until they were within close range of the negro, then stood up and fired 12 shots from a sub-machine-gun, eight of them striking Johnson. The killers ran across a field to their automobile and fled.

As they passed the Newbold home three shots were fired at Mrs. Newbold and two women companions, but they were unharmed.

Police found a dozen machine-gun shells behind the fence, a short distance from where the negro had been seated. Four bullets were found imbedded in the walls of the Newbold home.

Johnson was the owner of the St. Charles County farm where Dr. Kelley was held the first night after his abduction. The Kelley kidnaping case is set for trial June 11.

Dr. Kelley, socially prominent eye, ear, nose and throat specialist, was abducted April 20, 1931, after he had been lured from his home by a fake sick call. He was released early April 28, near East St. Louis, Ill., to John T. Rogers, reporter for The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, who said he had been directed to the place by a stranger. No ransom was paid.

EAST PRAIRIE, Mo., Aug. 26.—(AP)—Jess Coffey, 35, manager of the Rynearson plantation, 10 miles south of East Prairie, and his uncle, Dan Coffey, 65, were shot and almost instantly killed in the doorway of a negro cabin-dance hall on the plantation Saturday night about 11 o'clock.

Sheriff J. O. King and Coroner Paul Hackney, both of Charleston, the county seat, led an intensive search for Mose Hurley, 38, and his brother, Owen, 40, who are said to have shot down the Coffers and had a three-hour start in escaping before one of the dozen negro witnesses notified officers.

The cause of the shooting was clothed in mystery. Neither of the Coffers was armed, the officers found.

Shot Twice

Jess Coffey was shot twice, once through the chest and again in the left shoulder, both bullets going through the body, the latter emerging behind the ear. Dan Coffey was shot twice in the chest. Jess Coffey's body was found in the doorway by Sheriff King at 3 a.m. Sunday and his uncle's body was nearby on the ground. The shooting took place at Owen Hurley's cabin home.

Coroner Hackney announced that

half a dozen negroes had been jailed as witnesses for the inquest to be held Monday at 10 o'clock at Charleston.

Negro Sought In Double Slaying

CHARLESTON, Mo., Aug. 26.—(AP)—The killings of Jess and Dan Coffey, overseers in the Tynearson plantation at Wolf Island, southeast of here, spurred a widespread search today for Mose Hurley, itinerant negro cotton picker. Jess Coffey, 38, a nephew of Dan Coffey, 55 formerly was a deputy sheriff in Mississippi County.

Intense feeling was manifest among white residents in the plantation settlement as they took up the hunt for Hurley and his brother. The shooting took place. Hurley came here from Champaign, Ill., and police expressed belief he might attempt to cross the Mississippi River into Illinois.

Officers said the killings climaxed a quarrel between Hurley and the two white men, who were watching a negro dance at the home of Hurley's brother. Four negroes were held in jail as material witnesses for the inquest, set for tomorrow.

Witnesses said they heard several shots and the white men fell. Investigation disclosed they were killed by bullets from a .32 caliber automatic pistol. The two negroes fled immediately.

Both the Coffey men are survived by families.

THREE MISSOURI MEN KILLED AS GUNS BARK

Two Mississippi County Farmers Slain by Negroes

STOREKEEPER IS VICTIM

William Dicus Loses Life Near Hayti When Assassin Fires Into Store From Porch—Gun Wielder Flees

Two Mississippi County, Mo., farmers were slain by negroes and a Missouri storekeeper at Davis School, 11 miles from Hayti, was ambushed and killed at approximately the same time Saturday night shortly before 12 o'clock.

Yesterday, officers of Mississippi County and several small crowds of

citizens were searching for two negro brothers who at the height of an argument at a negro drinking-dancing party near East Prairie shot down Jess Coffey, 35, manager of the Rynearson plantation and his uncle, Dan Coffey, 65, both unarmed, and left their bodies lying for three hours before the crime was reported.

Posse Hunts Negro For Double Slaying

CHARLESTON, Mo., Aug. 26.—(AP)—Police and incensed residents organized a widespread search today for a transient negro, following the fatal shooting of Jess and Dan Coffey, white overseers on the Tynearson plantation at Wolf Island, 25 miles southeast of here.

The two white men were shot to death as they watched a negro dance which was in progress at the home of a negro tenant on the plantation, a brother of Mose Hurley, accused by witnesses of the slayings. Hurley and his brother fled after the shooting.

Officers learned it climaxed a quarrel between the two white men. Four negroes were held in the county jail here as material witnesses for the coroner's inquest tomorrow.

NEGRO IS SOUGHT IN SLAYING OF WHITES Fatal Shooting Occurs At Plantation Dance

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Odd Racial Issue Ends In Slaying

revised 15-34

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 14.—Remarks about a shabbily dressed Mexican escorting a girl of our race to a restaurant at 2133 Market street, led to the death of Richard Young, 18, of 212 South 16th street.

He died of knife wounds at City hospital No. 2 last Sunday afternoon following an affray in which several participants were "gigged" and clashed, but none knew who did the "butchering."

Police are holding a Mexican said to have been in the restaurant at the time but who denies taking part in the stabbing.

According to police Young's statement about the Mexican associating with a woman of our group precipitated a fight. In the melee he fell to the floor critically stabbed and died without regaining consciousness.

Negro Kills Justice, Wounds Two Men

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 23.—(P)—An enraged negro killed Justice of the Peace Philip R. Rabenau, critically shot Dr. William E. Poole and wounded a deputy constable today in the justice's office in suburban Kirkwood.

The negro, Raymond Batson, 29-year-old chauffeur, fled to a nearby relief agency building where he was routed by tear gas and captured.

Deputy Constable Jack Nece, who was in Rabenau's office, was grazed by one of Batson's bullets, and shot the negro in the arm as he ran from the office.

Dr. Poole, a dentist, suffered a bullet wound in the abdomen. Officers quoted Batson as saying he shot Poole accidentally in firing at the deputy.

Killings-1934

New York.

LEADER
SPRINGFIELD, MO.

JUN 15 1934

EDITORIALS

RACIAL TOLERANCE

Racial conflict is a bitter and destructive thing. Luckily, it can be averted—and it frequently is—by the exercise of intelligence and a spirit of fairness.

A New York broker took a taxicab one night recently and got into an argument with the driver, a negro. The argument waxed hot, and the broker cursed the driver, who hit him with his fist as a result.

A little later the broker died as a result of the blow. The negro was arrested.

When he got into court, the two people who urged that the case against him be dropped were the brother and wife of the dead man—both of them residents of North Carolina.

They said they were satisfied that the negro struck in self-defense, and that no good would be done by prosecuting him. So he went free.

What might have developed into a bitter racial quarrel was quieted by the good sense and intelligent understanding displayed by these two people.

GREENWOOD, MISS.

COMMONWEALTH

JUN 2 1934

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WHITE WOMAN ACQUITTED IN GIRL'S DEATH

Slashed Chorus Girl Fatally in Fight Over Musician

10-13-34

Harry Elegant, attorney for Barbara Horton, who fatally knifed Madeline Odum during a quarrel at the stage entrance of the Harlem Opera House on March 27, described her to a General Sessions jury as "a woman suffering from consumption in its final stages—with but two more years to live."

The jury acquitted the faded white beauty, former common-law wife of Robert Horton, Harlem trombone player, last Friday at midnight after seven-and-a-half hours of deliberation. She was tried for first degree manslaughter.

The defendant's version of the fatal quarrel, elicited by the questioning of Attorney Elegant, tended to show that Horton had been leading a double love life. The trombone player admitted that he had a wife in Chicago whom he had "divorced" by the simple expedient of leaving her to her own devices.

Had Two "Wives."

Mrs. Horton, who claimed she lived with Horton in Harlem for the past five years, testified that Madeline Odum, the slain chorus girl, had revealed during their quarrel that Horton had "maintained" her as his mistress for the past two years.

Killings-1934

North Carolina

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.

TELEGRAM

JUL 9 1934

Prison For Jones

The most troublesome inmate of the State prison system, Jake "Sunshine" Jones, small Negro killer, has at last been confined on "death row" in Raleigh for safe keeping until physicians and advisers can decide on the proper treatment to accord him. He can be convicted, on the basis of evidence in the hands of Durham county officers, of burglary, a capital offense in North Carolina and, should the full penalty exacted under the law, disposed of in an efficient manner. Doubtless such a course would arouse a great deal of protest because the man has been pronounced lacking in sufficient sanity to determine between right and wrong. But the fact is clear that Jones is desperate and a menace; that he can devise means to escape from confinement and to resist arrest.

That so small a person could occasion so much trouble for a State is difficult to understand. If he is confined in prison where he can be kept safely, his health will be impaired and it will be only a matter of time until the State will be confronted by another problem, that if saving Jones from the ravages of disease. He cannot be made to work.

"Sunshine" Jones obviously is not sunshine for prison officials.

Winston Salem, N. C.

SENTINEL

they made after they were arrested. The officers took them in charge, arraigned them, placed them in jail and will try them for the murder.

So far, not a finger has been lifted against them. No such move is expected.

These hill country people are the cool, deliberative type of citizens who don't often jump at conclusions. They will get at the truth and then will trust the State, in its power and authority, to mete out justice.

In less humane sections of this country, a necktie party would have been the fashionable way in which to settle this matter. The evidence in the case would not have counted for much. If a mistake had been made, little would have been said about it; nothing would have been done. Rockingham has distinguished herself through the sane action of her citizenry just as thoroughly as she would have done had she done any one of a hundred other things far more sensational.

NOV 30 1934

Patient Citizenship

North Carolina should be proud of its sane, law-abiding, citizenship. Although many opportunities have come to illustrate the extent to which the people of this state will go to allow the law to take its course, none has ever exceeded the vividness of the one which came to light last week.

Two Negroes killed a Rockingham man in cold blood, according to the confessions

Killings-1934

North Carolina

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.
TELEGRAM

JUN 19 1934

Avoiding A Penalty

A Negro who admitted his guilt of murder in New Hanover county was allowed to plead guilty to a lesser offense because the man who persuaded the Negro to kill could not be punished with death under North Carolina law. The Negro testified that he murdered and robbed a farmer after strong persuasion by a third party; that he turned the proceeds of his robbery over to his sponsor who in turn paid him for the crime. Under the law the Negro could have been electrocuted but the man who was responsible escapes capital punishment. Consequently, to solicitor accepted the second plea and the court agreed. The Negro was befuddled with whiskey, the evidence tended to show, at the time of the murder and it is to be supposed that he is a person of weak mentality. Governor Ehringhaus recently set a precedent in his administration by denying clemency to a paid killer, even though the man chiefly responsible lives and will continue to live in prison. The Governor, in as far as we can see, had no alternative in acting as he did. Murder for profit is, by all odds, the most conscienceless sort, murder for which there are no excuses. But when the law allows the man who planned and persuaded another to execute a crime to escape the capital penalty and send the tool to his death, such action as transpired in New Hanover is more than justified. The next Legislature can remedy this situation by re-writing the law to require that men who plot murders and hire killers shall suffer penalties exactly as severe as those inflicted on hired killers. New Hanover court officials are to be congratulated for making the best of a miserable case and for sparing the life of the man who, according to the testimony, is far less responsible than the man who could not be touched by the electric chair.

BURLINGTON, N. C.

TIMES

JUN 19 1934

OF WHICH WE SHOULD BE
PROUD

Justice triumphed in Wilmington

the other day, when a negro who had been hired for ten dollars by a white man to kill another was saved from the chair and given life imprisonment along with the white man. Of this instance of justice the South stands vindicated. The Wilmington Star tells the story vividly as follows: The court speaks—“My conscience would not permit me to send this man to the chair”—His weaker mentality was swayed by the stronger emotions of the white man—There is the hint of a love triangle involving the white defendant, his wife and the victim—the state elects to try the white man first—He is defended by able counsel and wages a stubborn fight—the negro takes the stand and tells his story—Frankly, he admits the crime, but adds that the white man gave him ten dollars, made him drunk and told him to do it—The court ceased speaking, the prisoner was led away to his cell, and Cross examination fails to shake his story—the Nordic denies his guilt; denies bribing the negro, but admits that he told officers the identity of the slayer—The arguments on on—The jury retires and four hours later returns with a verdict—It believes the negro's story; It finds the defendant guilty as indicted—The punishment is fixed by statute—imprisonment for life.—The negro is arraigned.—He has no counsel, and has already admitted striking the blow that caused death—the indictment charges that first degree murder, and the penalty for first degree murder is likewise fixed by statute, it is death—Will the court send the negro hiring to the chair, as was done in Durham some months ago, and let the white promoter escape with his life?—The solicitor is speaking.—He believes in capital punishment, and can find to mitigating circumstances

RALEIGH, N. C.
NEWS OBSERVER

JUN 28 1934

'Sunshine' Problem

Yesterday the diminutive Negro murderer, Jake ("Sunshine") Jones, was back at the State's Prison where once he escaped the death chair because the Governor held him to be mentally incompetent. In accordance with that executive clemency, "Sunshine" was transferred to the criminal insane division of the Hospital for the Negro Insane at Goldsboro. There he led a riot among the demented. From there he escaped to commit, it is charged, another capital crime in Durham. Now he waits at State Prison while the decision is made as to whether or not he will be tried for his life again.

And while the powers argued, officials at the State Prison said that they thought that "Sunshine" should go back to Goldsboro and the officials in Goldsboro were equally sure that the State Prison was the place for "Sunshine." Both were certain that they would rather not have him.

"Sunshine" is crazy and "Sunshine" appears to be pretty bad. Also "Sunshine" is a tough problem for the law and justice of the State. He is too crazy to die under the legal tradition that no man who is mentally incompetent should be punished for crime. He has demonstrated that he is smart enough to escape from the asylum at Goldsboro and that at large he is a criminal, insane menace to the community. He is too crazy for prison officials and too dangerous for asylum officials.

"Sunshine" is little and young and black and criminal and crazy but he begins to look like a problem too deep for our conventions of criminal justice. If "Sunshine" was crazy when the Governor pardoned him, he was probably crazy when he committed his latest crime. Therefore, if the Governor was right in the

first place in saving a human life because that human life was too idiotic to destroy, "Sunshine" should be too idiotic to try again. If he was a crazy killer, he was probably a crazy burglar. And the Governor in first saving his life, in effect gave him a license to commit crime without fear of the law.

If the State and its officials are going to be logical, "Sunshine" should be preserved, perhaps to escape again, perhaps to kill again. But the State has already been too logical with "Sunshine." The time has come for a little inconsistency in the interest of innocent men, women and children. Such a course might not be fair to "Sunshine," but it would be a belated consideration for the peaceful citizen who was forgotten and neglected while alienists and the Governor were giving "Sunshine" that mercy, which in our civilization is too often saved for the mad and the menace.

RALEIGH, N. C.

TIMES

JUN 18 1934 OLDER RULE AS TO MURDERS WAS REASON VS. SENTIMENT

Holding court in New Hanover County, Judge Wers, to fix responsibility for the C. Harris, of Raleigh, did as much as he possibly could do under the law to rectify the vicious rule of unreason by which one who plow the murder persuaded to enact it.

Another, hires an assassin and procures the commission of the crime, cannot be given a death sentence. The negro, submitting in turn to a second degree murder count which offered escape from the chair, faced the court, Judge W. C. Harris, for present when the actual assassination takes place.

In the instant case one Faison Gore, white, of New Hanover, paid Ben Johnson, colored, \$10 to kill the white man against whom he entertained mortal malice. Both were convicted of murder in the second degree, but it is cheering to note that Judge Harris would give the same sentence to both. He explained to the court that in giving sentence discriminated between their respective degrees of moral guilt. The actual slayer received a flat term of thirty years in prison; the conspirator and moving actor in the murder was given life sentence.

Disposition of this case presents a refreshing contrast with the case arising in Durham under almost identical circumstances, in which the executant of the plot was given an orthodox frying in the electric chair, while the plotter in chief was sent to prison for life. There has been at least one other similar miscarriage of justice of this description within the year.

But what really is needed is a return to the old and better principle of the law which obtained before legislatures commenced to monkey with it by

statutes defining various degrees of murder and courts went off hunting moonbeams of legal metaphysics as illustrated in the Casey decision. Under the old law those who planned murder and those who committed it were equally guilty of murder. Murder might be less popular if we could return to this sane rule of sweet reason.

GREENSBORO, N. C. NEWS

JUN 18 1934 A CHOICE MORSEL.

North Carolina justice, which in recent months has sent several hired assassins to the chair and allowed their diabolical employers to get off with imprisonment, under declaration that the law provided no other course, at last found a way out, praises be, in New Hanover county.

Ben Johnson, negro, took the stand to confess that he killed Kar Haduck, young farmer, after Faison Gore, confessed wholesale liquor dealer, had got him drunk and given him \$10 to commit the murder. His story of the crime was related against a sordid background involving hint of a domestic triangle, extensive bootleg dealings and the plotter's efforts, by informing offic-

hard labor." So much for Johnson Gore, in the meantime, had been convicted, as an accessory before the fact, on the negro's testimony. Under the statute, which prescribes the punishment for such an offense, he was sentenced to life imprisonment. How long his natural life will last is problematical; but the sentence, the death penalty barred by the statute for him and by the conscience and common sense of the court for Johnson, properly transcends that of his befuddled and paid executioner.

Here is justice in which North Carolina can take pride, an instance worthy of noising abroad, particularly where the judiciary or the critics gather, a morsel that furnishes pleasing meditation upon the quiet of the sabbath day on which this is written.

HICKORY, N. C. RECORD

"SUNSHINE" AGAIN

That Negro-killer, "Sunshine" Jones, has bobbed up again to harass Tar Heel criminologists with the pressing and apparently confusing problem which his case has presented for solution.

Although state officials do not seem willing to admit it, the actual fact is that "Sunshine" raises the age-old issue of whether we exact the death penalty to punish the criminal or for the purpose of protecting society.

Certainly if protection of society is our excuse for maintaining a death chair, "Sunshine" should have been led to a seat there at the time he was originally sentenced to be electrocuted. Since he was spared by arousing the sentimental sympathy of the Governor, who takes the position it is his business to weigh the verdicts of the courts in all such instances of capital crimes, the dangerous little colored man has been at large to terrorize the public and might have slain other innocent people.

Wednesday, "Sunshine" was returned to the central prison, although it may be

decided later to transfer him to the Negro insane hospital at Goldsboro, where he was sent following executive clemency when his life was spared on the theory that although he was admitted to be dangerous, he should not be electrocuted due to the fact that he is mentally deficient. The Raleigh News and Observer has the following comment on the latest phase of the situation:

"Sunshine" is crazy and "Sunshine" appears to be pretty bad. Also "Sunshine" is a tough problem for the law and justice of the State. He is too crazy to die under the legal tradition that no man who is mentally incompetent should be punished for crime. He has demonstrated that he is smart enough to escape from the asylum at Goldsboro and that at large he is a criminal, insane menace to the community. He is too crazy for prison officials and too dangerous for asylum officials.

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3 Negroes Die in Chair For Carolina Slaying

RALEIGH, N. C., Nov. 16.—(AP)—Three negroes convicted of the murder of a white filling station operator were executed at state's prison here today in the first triple electrocution in the history of North Carolina.

In succession Johnny Johnson, 26, Preston Howard, 19, and Johnny Hart, 22, went to the chair.

Johnson admitted he fired the shot which killed Howard Jernigan, as the Sampson county man serviced an automobile in which the three negroes and another were traveling after a prison escape.

killings - 1934

GREENSBORO, N. C. NEWS

MAR 29 1934

ITS OWN SPOKESMAN.

In Pender county Superior court bringing any of these slayers to the public safety. No man should ever again be saved from electrocution to be the menace which "Sunshine" Jones is in North Carolina today. Humanity is an excellent thing, but it ought not to be restricted to mad criminals. There is a greater humanity which considers the welfare and safety of all the people of the State.

CAROLINA NEGRO HELD FOR "TORCH" MURDER

LOUISBURG, N. C., April 16.—(P)—Accused of throwing kerosene on an aged white man and setting his clothing afire with fatal results, Pink Hodge, 55-year-old negro, reputed boot-legger, was held without bail here today.

His victim was Allen Denton, 63, a tenant farmer and father of 11 children who lived in the Youngville section of Franklin county. Evidence was that Denton went to Hodge's home early yesterday, demanded whisky, was asked for money and a quarrel ensued during which Hodge threw about a quart of kerosene on Denton and struck a match to his clothing. The coroner said both men were drunk at the time.

Solicitor Woodus Kellum, who announced Millis' decision to plead guilty, declined to indicate what action, if any, he will take in the case involving the lynching of Dock Rogers, negro.

No indictments were returned in the case by the grand jury today and there were no indications that the case had been laid before that body.

Rogers was slain by a mob, which seized him from a truck after he had been wounded when he emerged from a house in which he had barricaded himself against officers who sought to arrest him.

The Millis case, on the basis of what have been admittedly more or less meager dispatches, was an ambush slaying; the federal investigator was slain by some one in concealment, an individual who had to be ferreted out, identified and branded as the killer. Dock Rogers far from ambushed in the sense of the word as applied to Millis victim, was seized by a group, a mob, upon the open highway and save them from the chair. And in the cases in the very presence of officers who were taking him to hospital, jail or predetermined destination. Yet, after a considerably longer lapse than that since Uncle Sam's agent was slain, no member of this openly operating group has been identified and, so far as the public has been

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RALEIGH, N. C. NEWS OBSERVER

APR 11 1934

A NEW POLICY NEEDED

The escape of "Sunshine" Jones from the criminal ward of the State Hospital for the Negro Insane at Goldsboro provides a basis and a time for the formulation of a new policy with regard to the extension of executive clemency to the condemned. There are today 22 men awaiting death at the State Prison in Raleigh. Every one of them is hoping against hope for clemency to save them from the chair. And in the cases of many of them there are circumstances which suggest the possible righteousness of reducing the measure of their punishment from death to imprisonment. In every case considered, however, the Governor and the executive counsel should be moved

GREENSBORO, N. C. EDENTON, N. C. NEWS ALBEMARLE NEWS

FEB 9 1934

THE WHYNESS THEREOF? MAY 1 1934

Further details of the exoneration of G. W. Phelps, Jonesboro police officer, by a Lee county coroner's jury, of all blame in connection with the fatal shooting of John Ford, negro, who was fired on when the officer came upon his parked automobile and official command to arrest his hands skyward was not obeyed with an alacrity which the commander deemed sufficient, are supplied in Monday's edition of the Sanford Herald.

Without going into reiteration of details of the case, reference to which was made in these columns several days ago, it suffices to reproduce this paragraph from the Herald's account:

Coroner J. F. Foster, in stating the decision of the jury, while of the opinion that Phelps acted somewhat hastily when he fired upon the negroes without announcing his authority, considered his actions in line of duty. He referred to recent criticism brought by Jonesboro people relative to Phelps' failure to apprehend robbers who looted Mann's hardware store of their town, saying that condition influenced the decision of the jury, its members realizing that because of such criticism the officer would be over-desirous of effecting full force of the law.

Any number of terms stand out in bold relief in that paragraph; "acted somewhat hastily," "without announcing his authority," "recent criticism . . . influenced the jury," "over-desirous of effecting full force of the law." Yet, under these conditions and circumstances the coroner's jury closes the case with ex-patience follows Theodore Cooper in operation. Amidst meditations upon the realm beyond and we are coroners generally and specifically, hoping that he was prepared for the question which persists in the long journey and is now en-breaking in has to do with the why-ness of grand juries and solicitors justice to everyone.

Appeal for Negro Cropper, May 22

Workers Urged To Protest Lynch Death Verdict

RALEIGH, N. C., April 26.—The International Labor Defense has issued a call for a mighty protest campaign in the case of Emanuel Biddings, a Negro sharecropper who sits on death row at the Central Prison in Raleigh, N. C. Biddings was sentenced by the land courts of North Carolina because he dared protest against robbery by his landlord and because he defended himself from being killed by this landlord.

An appeal has been filed and will come before the State Supreme Court on May 22. Workers' and farmers' organizations should send protests at once to Governor Ehringhaus and to the Supreme Court at Raleigh and demand a new trial for Biddings. Protest wires should be sent to the Supreme Court on the 22nd.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
NEWS

MAR 14 1934

Finality of Martyrdom.

When a Negro lawyer for the condemned-to-die Spice Bittings appeared before Judge N. A. Sinclair to show cause why he should not be removed as counsel and turned over to the International Labor Defense all records pertaining to the case, he produced an affidavit to the effect that his client wished him to continue and to perfect the appeal now pending. Judge Sinclair considered this cause a plenty and denied the motion.

Bittings, it is patent, hardly could be in a worse predicament if he had employed no counsel whatsoever. Under sentence of death for the murder of his white landlord, all that stands between him and the chair is the grant of a reversal or a new trial by the North Carolina supreme court or a pardon.

But it is our observation that the I. L. D. is much more interested in turning out propaganda than in acquittals. A martyr or two is worth scads of publicity to their cause, though it is not for us to say that the end of human justice doesn't excuse almost any means of attaining it.

But if we were Spice Bittings, doomed to die, we are certain we should think twice or oftener before permitting the labor defense to come to our rescue. Martyrdom has its points, but so does the philosophy which insinuates that one is more sensible to take the cash of a breathing existence and let the credit of immortality go hang.

RALEIGH, N. C.
NEWS OBSERVER

JUN 6 1934

Crap-Shooter Cured

Deputy Sheriff C. P. Hatcher, of Person County, knows how to enforce the law when he finds a group of Negroes engaged in a nickel-and-dime gambling game in Roxboro.

His efficacious method of stopping a crap game was disclosed Tuesday night when a Negro died in Duke Hospital in Durham of a wound he had received from the deputy's pistol.

According to the deputy's version of the affair, his pistol called a halt to a gambling game in Roxboro, but under his pistol the gamblers scattered and in the melee the deceased gambler grabbed, or seemed to grab, at the deputy's pistol. Therefore, at Duke Hospital on Tuesday night it was announced that he would never shoot craps to the defiance of law and order and good morals in Roxboro again. He was cured entirely by the deputy's pistol.

Surely nothing should be said in times such as these to reduce the zeal of officers in enforcing the law. Crap games have got to be broken up. It's the law. But somehow or other it does seem just a little over-zealous to kill a man to stop a crap game, efficacious undoubtedly as the method is of curing the gambler.

RALEIGH, N. C.
NEWS OBSERVER

FEB 28 1934

KILLING IS SINFUL.

Charlotte News.

We are not accusing the men who make up this paper of an intent to editorialize on their own hook, but seldom have we seen a more pointed juxtaposition of happenings than that on the front page of yesterday's News. In one column Mayor Wearn was calling out the guard for a drive against traffic violators, while almost next door it was related that Saturday there had been two homicides, and that a small Negro girl had died because she had been given a big drink of whiskey.

Mayor Wearn's timing of campaigns against this and that violation of our many laws is bad. He comes out against the thumbing of rides by high school girls, and machine gunners appear among us. He orders the cops to break up the selling of beer which turns out to have been one-fourth of one per cent over strength, and The News feels obligated to remind him that there were six homicides in the first month of this year. He warns motorists that the traffic laws must be observed, and on its heels follow three more deaths by violence.

The News is not saying that there isn't much need of a campaign against improper and reckless driving. There is; there is indeed, and we are delighted that the Mayor has determined to do something about it. But we almost could wish that the Mayor would forget about ride-thumpers and beer and stop signs for a while, conserving his indignation for the more deadly crimes which go on undeterred by mayoral campaigns against them.

ARDMORE, OKLA.
DAILY ARDMOREITE

JUN 8 1934

Racial Tolerance

RACIAL conflict is a bitter and destructive thing. Luckily, it can be averted—and it frequently is—by the exercise of intelligence and a spirit of fairness.

A New York broker took a taxicab one night recently and got into an argument with the driver, a colored man. The argument waxed hot, and the broker cursed the driver, who hit him with his fist as a result of the blow. The Negro boy was arrested.

When he got into court, the two people who urged that the case against him be dropped were the brother and the wife of the dead man—both of them residents of North Carolina.

They said they were satisfied that the Negro struck in self-defense, and that no good would be done by prosecuting him. So he went free.

What might have developed into a bitter racial quarrel was quelled by the good sense and intelligent understanding displayed by these two people.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
NEWS

FEB 26 1934

Killing Too Is Sinful.

We are not accusing the men who make up this paper of an intent to editorialize on their own hook, but seldom have we seen a more pointed juxtaposition of happenings than that on the front page of yesterday's News. In one column Mayor Wearn was calling out the guard for a drive against traffic violators, while almost next door it was related that Saturday there had been two homicides, and that a small Negro girl had died because she had been given a big drink of whisky.

Mayor Wearn's timing of campaigns against this and that violation of our many laws is bad. He comes out against the thumb-

ing of rides by high school girls, and machine gunners appear among us. He orders the cops to break up the selling of beer which turns out to have been one-fourth of one per cent over strength, and The News feels obligated to remind him that there were six homicides in the first month of

this year. He warns motorists that the traffic laws must be observed, and on its heels follow three more deaths by violence.

The News is not saying that there isn't much need of a campaign against improper and reckless driving. There is; there is indeed, and we are delighted that the Mayor has determined to do something about it. But we almost could wish that the Mayor would forget about ride-thumpers and beer and stop signs for a while, conserving his indignation for the more deadly crimes which go on undeterred by mayoral campaigns against them.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
NEWS

MAR 6 1934

Link In A Chain.

The group which has joined together to save the Negro Spice Bittings from the electric chair may have started something which will not end with Bittings. We are assuming, of course, that the circumstances which caused them to seek a re-hearing of the condemned man's case are of sufficient reliability to put a new face upon the killing of the white landlord in Person county.

If that assumption is valid, then it may be assumed further that the man was not defended adequately by the counsel which the court provides for every accused, or that the prosecution was conducted with discreditable vigor, or that the jury was guilty of voicing its racial philosophy rather than a verdict in accord with the evidence presented.

We are careful to agree that the revised version of the crime cannot yet be accepted as a mitigation of the offense. Indeed, this is the first we knew that there was a Negro in Person county by the name of Spice Bittings, or that he had killed his landlord after a dispute over sharing a crop, or that he had been condemned to die for it. That, perhaps, is symptomatic of the trouble. One knows so little of what goes on, and cares less.

Charlotte, N. C. News
March 12, 1934

As Expected.

The News has been fearful that two, confirms our fears. The constant shooting of Negroes by Negroes, which goes on more, thing of fortune in this affair, killing of Negroes by Negroes, or less undeterred by adequate that the man wasn't killed and which has bothered nobody very much. The News feels certain that the bounds and involve white persons. Negro will get the punishment he The tragedy yesterday, when a deserves, all of which will not be wild buck shot five times at a of much consolation to the in-Mr. Snyder after a near collision jured citizen. Otherwise, The News between the automobiles of the feels certain that the responsible-

Killings-1934

GREENSBORO, N. C. RECORD

FEB 2 1934

No Color Line Here.

It is gratifying to learn that the governor has granted a reprieve to the Durham negro under sentence of death for a murder that the evidence shows he was hired by another to commit.

This gratification arises out of the purported fact that the white man who hired this negro to murder another white man was given a life sentence in prison. Premeditation and deliberation is the thing upon which the supreme penalty for murder is based in this state. Without such the law holds no person may commit murder of a degree punishable by death, unless such slaying be done while the slayer is in the act of committing another felony. Surely a man who would hire another, and one of evident weaker mentality because he would consent to take small hire for such a job as fully met the test of premeditation.

Under strict interpretation of the law as applied to the case of the negro alone, he might be deserving of the full penalty. But the state cannot now recall the white man who did the hiring and make him walk to the death cell.

If the facts are such as have been reported in press stories of the situation, it would appear that the state should not allow the creation of a suspicion that the color line applies here.—Lexington Dispatch

WINSTON SALEM, N. C. JOURNAL

FEB 1 1934

Carolina Comment

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Raleigh

'MURDERING IGNORANT NEGROES'

Anyone familiar with the grim procession of men from the cells on Death Row to the little octagonal room at the end of it knows that there is entirely too much truth for a sound State conscience in the charge of Paul Green of Chapel Hill, that electrocution in North Carolina is a "frightful business of murdering ignorant Negroes."

If there is merit in capital punishment it lies in the use of that power of the State to rid society of those men who, living, constitute a menace to it. There are such men. There are men of such twisted minds or twisted morals that their existence is far less important than the peace of the society to which their continued existence constitutes a danger. Unfortunately, however, in North Carolina the death sentence has in the great majority of cases been carried out only against the defenseless and the poor. Among those who died were many whose lives never meant anything more than a danger to the State in which they lived. Among those who died were others who save in the single crime for which they died, had lived peaceful, and, in their little spheres, useful lives.

Strangely enough in modern social view, but understandable as representing the ancient humanitarianism of the law, there has grown up with regard to capital punishment in this State, as in others, the practice of saving from electrocution those idiotic and insane criminals who are the worst menaces to society, and of carrying out the sentence in the cases of those who are less dangerous since they are adjudged to be sane. Our humanity preserves our worst social enemies, but permits those who might conceivably safely return to society to die.

If capital punishment is to be continued, it should be continued in a just and intelligent fashion. It should be made not merely a survival of a barbarous practice but an agency for cleansing society of the fiends which are in it. Certainly capital punishment should not be permitted to continue as a punishment pre-

served only for those too weak, too ignorant, too poor or too black to escape its horrors as others with more money or more influence do too often escape it in North Carolina.

If capital punishment in North Carolina is to be no more than a "frightful business of murdering ignorant Negroes," a self-respecting State ought to abolish it in the name of simple justice and simple decency.

CHARLOTTE, N. C. NEWS

MAR 16 1934

There Are Problems and Problems.

Considerable mizzlement prevails in city court and police circles as to what to do with Claude Crimison, a 15-year-old Negro with a bandaged neck who was arrested for shooting two men, one in self-defense, he says, and the other accidentally. Being under 16, he rates as a juvenile. Being a juvenile, he must not come in contact with adults convicted of or charged with criminal offenses.

But there is no juvenile jail, and the attorney general has ruled that quarters in the county jail remote from the regular cells are not permissible under the terms of the act specifying that a child is to be kept apart from grown and presumably hardened men.

What to do about the 15-year-old Claude's detention is a problem, but we daresay it will be solved pretty soon, in some way or other. A more vexatious question is what to do about a race the juveniles of which must be arrested for shooting their fellows. Claude himself, be it stated, bears witness to having been treated roughly with a knife.

We suppose it is all right for Negroes to fight and murder and shoot in self-defense among themselves, for after all they are only Negroes. True, they run up the city's homicide rate to a point where it is about four and a half times that of the terrorized Chicago, but this can always be explained by showing that the vic-

tims are mostly Negroes, who will fight among themselves.

Among themselves? We are not so sure that they will continue to remain satisfied to fight only among themselves. Indeed, there is some evidence now that they are beginning to look for whiter game, in proof of which these three instances are cited:

Last Saturday night a Negro blazed away with a shotgun and narrowly missed the head of a police officer.

Last Sunday, after a near automobile collision, a Negro shot and wounded a white man whose wife and baby miraculously escaped harm in the fusillade.

Last Monday a Negro shot three times at a police officer who was dispersing a crowd, all three bullets fortunately going astray.

Negroes fighting and killing among themselves? Don't be too cocksure about it.

GREENSBORO, N. C. RECORD

MAR 20 1934

A Rather Unusual Case.

The case of the 26-year-old negro George Keaton, convicted in Forsyth county Superior court, at Winston-Salem, Saturday on the charge of murdering a young woman of his own race and sentenced to death for the crime, presents some rather unusual aspects.

It is, for example, but seldom in North Carolina that one negro is sentenced to die for the murder of another. Then, too, Keaton, according to the Twin City Sentinel, was a college man, or at least he had attended college for two years. Usually, the negro arraigned on a capital charge is but poorly educated or illiterate. Keaton, according to his own testimony, suffers from a loathsome social disease.

The Sentinel, moralizing and in pertinent comment on the case, remarks:

Twelve of his (Keaton's) fellow countrymen had found him guilty and the punishment provided for this is death.

Before Judge Alley pronounced the sentence he spoke briefly, and earnestly. He made it clear that

in this hour of darkness for the harvest of their own planting. The girl, a very popular negro defendant he would not add to of 18, just entering womanhood the suffering of the prisoner at with a brilliant future was the bar, but that his message was snapped into eternity. Keaton, intended as a solemn warning to 26, who went to college for two other young people, and to in years, is to be electrocuted for due Keaton to see the error of the killing. The two weeks' session of court Many sermons were preached just ended reveals the seriousness Sunday, but we doubt if any of crime and also that it is ram-were as impressive and effective pant in this county. Observers as the message of Judge Alley. also note that jurors and the He had before him a never-to-be court took the job seriously in forgotten illustration of the truth in the statement that the wages of sin is death, and that those who sow may expect to reap the

Killings-1934

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CHARLOTTE, N. C. NEWS

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JOURNAL

Wilmington, N.C.

FEB 24 1934

Another Brutal Murder

The brutal murder of Buck Bryant, sixty-year old Race Man, late last Thursday night by another Negro is proof positive of the cheap value a certain type of Negro places on the lives of members of his Race in the community and nation. In this instance conclusive proof seems to have been unearthed by officers and presented to the coroner's jury placing the blame at the door of the fiend who engineered this heartless crime.

Buck Bryant was ambushed by his slayer. Fifteen buckshot were found lodged in his back, causing instant death. With his pipe gripped between his teeth, his dinner bucket under one arm, and a bundle of wood under the other, the slain man who had been in the employ of the Tide Water Power Company for 30 years, was found sprawled across the sidewalk over which he had grown accustomed to pass for so many years. Bryant, no doubt, was unaware of the grim tragedy that was to be enacted and in which he was to be the leading character as he prepared to go home for the night near eleven o'clock p. m. A foul murderer lurking in the hedges was furtherest from his thoughts. Yet, Buck Bryant failed to reach Front Street.

His alleged slayer, William Pratt, who is being held in the County jail without bail is enmeshed in a web of circumstantial evidence which is being woven tighter and tighter around him as city detectives and "Black Dispatch" continue to bring not only evidence to light but coniving plots as well. These rumors, whether they are false or not will cause further investigation into their origin and truthfulness. At any rate, the trial of the alleged murderer of Buck Bryant will create a tremendous amount of interest among the Negroes of this city and county.

For sheer brutality, the premeditated murder of this sixty year old Tide Water Power Company employee by far surpasses any murder among the Race group here in some time. Therefore, the results of

this trial is of vital importance to the thinking Negroes of Wilmington.

Why do some Negroes place such a small value on the lives of their brothers? Why is there such an alarming homicidal rate among our group? Why does each term of Superior Court have on its blotter one or more Negro murder cases? The answer to these questions is simple. Negro murder cases usually end with a verdict of guilty for the defendant and a sentence of one to three years or five to seven years regardless of the circumstances. Another popular verdict is not guilty. What a high value these courts place on the lives of Negroes! Its a simple breeding spot for murder when a man finds he can kill his neighbor with impunity and then receive only five to seven years for his act. An expression commonly used among some of these folk is "I'll kill you and pay for it."

Several cases which happened during the past year will prove our assertion as to the value placed on Negro life. Isaiah Newkirk killed Sam Copeland over a few paltry cents while gambling—short sentence. The ice pick slaying of Steve Washington by a woman—short sentence. The shooting of Irene Swindell by a boy friend—short sentence. The fatal stabbing of Elijah Moseley in brawl—short sentence. The fatal shooting of his wife and her paramour by Ed. Brown—The "accidental" shooting of a woman friend by Durant—not guilty.

There are many, more of these cases which space will not permit us to name. We use these instances of lenient justice to show the cheap value placed on black human life. Then too, these cases came up during an epidemic of Negro homicides. We hesitate to contemplate the result had these victims been white and these defendants colored.

Buck Bryant is dead. No amount of printers's ink will resurrect him. He was not an important figure in the community, except in his own domicile; yet it is fervently hoped by this sheet that Buck Bryant will become a martyr. And martyr he will be if through the punishment of his slayer a higher value is placed on the lives of Negroes here by not only the Negroes themselves but the courts as well. This "New Justice" can begin only with severe punishment for his slayer, and continue only with drastic punishment of future murderers.

killings - 1934

Ohio

NEGRO WHO KILLED WHITES GUILTY!

Union Negroes Who Killed Negroes Innocent.

12-20-34

Two indictments charging first - degree murder were returned against Theodore Blackman, 19 years old, 2865 Stanton Avenue, Negro, by the Hamilton County Grand Jury in a report to Judge Stanley Struble in Criminal Division. *Ohio*

The bills charge the Negro with the murder of Charles Boyd and his wife Edythe Boyd, at the Full Measure Gas Company's filling station 667 Lincoln Avenue. Each indictment contains three counts. They accuse Blackman of premeditated murder, murder in the perpetration of a robbery, and murder when attempting to perpetrate a robbery, all of which carry the death penalty.

Louis J. Schneider, County Prosecutor, and Dudley M. Outcalt, Assistant Prosecutor, who handled the case before the grand jury, will ask that the trial of Blackman be set at the earliest possible moment, when he is arraigned before Judge Struble today.

Two murder charges were ignored by the grand jurors, who found from the evidence that the killings were in self-defense. They were against Clinton Johnson, Negro, who stabbed Ernest Owen, Negro, to death, and Eunice Buston, Negro, who killed John Dendy, Negro.

Killings-1934
6

Oklahoma

No Railroading Of Negroes To Pen, Says City Judge

Killer of Willie Kilgore Gets Seven Years After Trial Delay

In an unusual statement delivered from the district court bench Monday morning, Judge Claude Weaver of the 13th judicial district sentenced Willie Smith, charged with the murder of Willie Kilgore, April 27, to seven years in the penitentiary.

Smith, a penniless youth, shot Kilgore in a fit of anger during the course of a crap game. Judge Weaver, in his sentence called attention to the fact that he had delayed the trial, appointing one of the best criminal lawyers at the bar to defend Smith.

"I'll see the county bankrupt before I'll see a Negro railroaded into the penitentiary," said Judge Weaver.

After reviewing the case, and before sentencing Smith, Judge Weaver said:

"When this Negro came before me he had no money, no witnesses, no lawyer. He had the smell of the county jail upon him, a deputy of the sheriff brought him into court. He was friendless, except for jail friends, and powerless, except for such power as the laws of the great commonwealth of Oklahoma gave him as a protection and a shield.

"The county attorney was ready for trial, but the defendant was not. I announced from the bench that I would see the county bankrupt before I would see a Negro railroaded into the penitentiary or the death chair without a legal trial and a legal defense, and without giving him all of the protection that the law gives him.

"I had the case set for this day, and I appointed Sid White, the famous 'cow-boy' lawyer, to defend this Negro. Mr. White accepted the trust, for it is a trust. I appointed to defend this Negro, who has no money and no influence, one of the best criminal lawyers at the bar of this state, a lawyer

who has the confidence of courts and juries.

"In reading the Oklahoma constitution, the first is the Bill of Rights. It says that the right of trial by jury shall be and remain inviolate; that in all criminal prosecutions the accused shall have the right to a speedy and public trial; that he shall be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation against him; that he shall be confronted with the witnesses against him, and that he shall have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his own behalf. It says that he shall have the right to be heard by himself and counsel, and in capital cases at least two days before the case is called for trial he shall be furnished with a list of the witnesses against him.

"These safeguards of the law are for the protection of the innocent.

killings-1934

SALEM, ORE.
CAPITAL JOURNAL

MAR 29 1934

Intimidation Failed

The supreme court has for a second time upheld the conviction of Theodore Jordan, negro slayer of F. J. Sullivan, a Pullman car conductor in 1932, tried and sentenced to hang. The court reviews the case in detail and declares that Jordan had a fair trial, with "no error prejudicial to the rights of the defendants."

Jordan, who had a previous criminal record, made a complete confession of the crime after his arrest. He admitted that he had deliberately and premeditatedly planned to rob his victim and in order to accomplish it, struck him over the head several times with a water pipe, from the effects of which Sullivan died.

The case was taken up as a cause celebre by the communists who sought to make the negro slayer an innocent victim of "capitalistic injustice." The supreme court was flooded by postals demanding that Jordan be freed and the "judicial lynching" called off. During the arguments members of the International Labor Defense league which makes a specialty of defending criminals, marched from Portland and other cities carrying placards "Jordan must not hang."

For fear an injustice had been done, the case was reopened by the court and the evidence again shifted with a final confirmation of the sentence. Here was a deliberate attempt by communists to coerce and terrorize the state's highest judicial body in the administration of justice, and it failed as it ought to have failed. These efforts to heroize criminals who menace society are merely part of an organized propaganda to undermine and destroy government by appeals to the prejudices of the unthinking.



THEODORE JORDAN
Framed Negro Worker.

Jordan Protest
Meet This Sunday
In Portland, Ore.
Early Workers

"Save Jordan Committee" Pushes Mass Fight on Lynch Verdict

PORTLAND, Ore., March 28. — Plans are under way for a large mass meeting here Sunday, April 1, sponsored by the "Save Theodore Jordan Anti-Lynch Committee" and the International Labor Defense. A number of organizations have been invited to send speakers to discuss, as a symposium of opinion, the subject: "National Minorities and Rising Fascism." The meeting will be held in the Italian Federation Hall.

"The Jordan case in Oregon; Scottsboro cases in Alabama; and the growing wave of lynch-terror, operating both inside the legal structure of society and illegally, proves to us that there is a vital need for broader education among the masses on the significance of the Negro people, as a National minority group, where the crystallizing of reaction is concerned," Rev.

Ackerman, chairman of the "Save Theodore Jordan Anti-Lynch Committee" stated. "This forum meeting is only a part of the campaign necessary for such education. Our Committee is determined to carry on a constant mobilization of forces around this issue."

Organizations that have taken either a "neutral" or openly antagonistic stand on the Jordan case, as a part of the rising lynch-spirit, have been invited to participate in the meeting. Invitations have been extended to the N. A. A. C. P., the Central Labor Council and the Socialist Party, as well as organizations such as the Council for Social and Economic Research, who have responded to the appeal for support of the campaign.

The "Save Theodore Jordan; Anti-Lynch Committee" again urges organizations of all kinds and individuals—workers and intellectuals—to rush protests to the Oregon State Supreme Court and Governor J. Meier, Salem, Oregon. Demand the unconditional release of Theodore Jordan!

Killings-1934

Rhode Island

NEWS
PROVIDENCE, R. I.

MAY 28 1934

RACIAL TOLERANCE

Racial conflict is a bitter and destructive thing. Luckily, it can be averted—and it frequently is—by the exercise of intelligence and a spirit of fairness.

A New York broker took a taxicab one night recently and got into an argument with the driver, a colored man. The argument waxed hot, and the broker cursed the driver, who hit him with his fist as a result.

A little later the broker died as a result of the blow. The Negro was arrested.

When he got into court, the two people who urged that the case against him be dropped were the brother and the wife of the dead man—both of them residents of North Carolina.

They said they were satisfied that the Negro struck in self-defense, and that no good would be done by prosecuting him. So he went free.

What might have developed into a bitter racial quarrel was quieted by the good sense and intelligent understanding displayed by these two people.

Killings-1934

NEGROES THREATENED WITH MOB VIOLENCE

Threats Develop Following Murder
Of Officer

By United Press.

GREENVILLE, S. C., Dec. 26. — Threats of mob violence were heard today as officers continued rounding up Negroes suspected in the slaying of State Highway Patrolman E. D. Milam last night.

The 23-year-old officer, whose home was at Newberry, was shot and beaten to death when he attempted to quiet a disturbance among Negroes holding a party at a school house six miles north of here.

Three Negroes, known to have been at the party, were held but Sheriff B. B. Smith said there was no other evidence against them. He planned to round up all Negroes who attended the party.

12 Negroes Jailed in Carolina Killing

GREENVILLE, S. C., Dec. 26. — (AP) — Twelve negroes were held today in the investigation of the slaying of State Highway Patrolman E. D. Milam, who was shot as he sought to stop a disturbance at a negro church Christmas festival.

Killings - 1934

Spartanburg, S. C. Herald
February 17, 1934

INQUEST TODAY IN WALLACE SLAYING

Woman, Three Men Held in Death of Farmer Near Wellford

An inquest into the slaying of Jack Wallace, negro farmer and recluse of the Wellford section, who was found slain at his home Thursday afternoon, will be held this morning at 10 o'clock at the court house, Coroner John S. Turner said Friday night.

A woman and three men are being held in the county jail in connection with the shooting.

The quartet were arrested Friday morning by officers working under the direction of Sheriff Sam M. Henry a little over 12 hours after Wallace had been found murdered in his home on Ridge Road, about nine mile and a half from Jackson Mill and adjoining the old J. J. Vernor place.

Wallace was shot Wednesday morning, officers said. His body was not found until late Thursday afternoon, when a neighbor dropped by the house on his way from a nearby field.

Wallace, Sheriff Henry learned, owned the small farm and lived on it by himself.

Negro Confesses

To Boy's Murder

LANCASTER, S. C., March 25 (AP)—Cudjoe Jones, 18-year-old Negro, was reported by officers today to have confessed the slaying of Bernard McCullen, 18, night operator of a filling station who was beaten to death and his body set afire Friday night.

H. A. Montgomery, chief of Lancaster police, said Jones confessed this afternoon. After announcing the confession, officers rushed the Negro to Columbia to the state penitentiary for safe-keeping.

Part of the small sum taken from the filling station safe was recovered, officers reported.

A short length of iron pipe was used to kill McCullen. Apparently he had been struck from behind and killed without warning and gasoline thrown over his clothing and set afire.

Declare Mistrial After Jury Ponders Evidence 18 Hours Charging 4 Guards With Beating Convict To Death In S. C. Pleas Ignored

GREENVILLE, S. C.—The testimony of five white physicians, 13 colored convicts, and four white residents resulted in a deadlocked jury here last week after 18 hours of deliberation at the trial of four white convict guards for the death of Roy Hudson, convict, whom they are charged with having beaten to death last October.

The guards now at liberty under bond after the declaration of the mistrial are H. Posey Dill, W. H. Forester, C. B. Baker and Julius Hightower.

Solicitor J. G. Letherwood stated that the four would be brought up for re-trial at the May term of the general sessions court.

"Mild And Routine" The alleged beating with a leather strap which was described to the defense as "mild and routine" was witnessed by a number of the convicts in the tent where it occurred.

Testimony presented during the course of the trial showed that Hudson had effected his escape from the camp where the men were detained on the afternoon of October 24. He was captured an hour later and brought back to camp and placed in chains in the tent near the stove so his wet clothes could dry.

The convicts testified that he was still sitting there when they returned and as the guards came along with them, they ordered Hudson to prepare to take a beating.

Hudson immediately arose and made for the rear of the tent. Forester grabbed the chain attached to the ankles of Hudson and yanked it, spilling him.

The guards are then reported to have placed the convict on a cot and while Forester held his feet and Baker and Hightower his head, Dill is alleged to have administered no less than 65 lashes with a two-and-one-half foot strap while the others looked on in amazement.

Hudson is supposed to have writhed and registered extreme agony on his face. He pleaded with the guards, the convicts said, to either stop or to shoot him outright because they were killing him.

Ignoring the cries and pleas, the punishment is said to have continued unabated to its conclusion which left the man thoroughly exhausted and rolling in agony.

All night long, the agonizing cries of the man continued at such a pitch that the others were unable to sleep. As day began to break his cries diminished and at 4 a. m., he was dead.

Dr. R. S. Gaston, white, who treated the man after his beating said that death was due to leakage of the heart, aggravated by his running during his escape. When questioned on the point, he admitted that the whipping could have been a contributory cause.

Four other physicians, all white, stated that such a whipping as described in court would hasten the death of a man suffering from a heart ailment.

Confesses Slaying.

LANCASTER, S. C., March 25.—(AP)—Cudjoe Jones, 18-year-old negro, was reported by officers today to have confessed the slaying of Bernard McCullen, 18, night operator of a filling station, who was beaten to death and his body set afire Friday night.

NEGRO ELECTROCUTED FOR SLAYING SHERIFF

COLUMBIA, S. C., April 13.—(AP)—John Watkins, diminutive 24-year-old negro, was electrocuted today for murdering Sheriff Raymond A. Foster, of Fairfield county, in an escape attempt.

Watkins, weighing less than 130 pounds, went quietly to his death at the state penitentiary just after day-break. He already had made a full confession to the slaying of the sheriff.

2 NEGROES EXECUTED FOR S. C. AX MURDER

COLUMBIA, S. C., June 6.—(AP)—Eddie Lee, of Georgetown, and Thomas Richardson, of Charleston, young negroes, were electrocuted at the state penitentiary today for the ax murder of a negro taxicab driver near Georgetown.

Richardson assumed full blame for the killing in a confession which said he was drunk at the time. Lee admitted he was present, but denied any part in the crime.

They Should Be Punished

It is greatly to the credit of Pelahatchie,

Miss., that its people are stirred by the slaying of an old negro man by four white men. Their victim, it appears, was respected in the community and their brutal act in beating him to death has brought high feeling against them.

It is a mistake to call this wanton homicide a lynching. It was the act of the four men, not of a section of the community. In Pelahatchie is reported a purpose of "giving them the same treatment" they gave their helpless captive.

Their punishment should be left to the courts and it is evident that cooler heads are opposed to a lynching of these four white men. However, the sheriff is maintaining a heavy guard over them in the county jail. The indignation of white citizens is justly aroused.

NEGRO ELECTROCUTED FOR MURDER WITH AX

COLUMBIA, S. C., Oct. 12.—(AP)—Evan Pugh, 24-year-old Sumter county negro, was electrocuted at the state penitentiary today for the ax-murder of James Grooms, elderly white farmer, last July 9.

The negro was tried several years ago on a charge of murdering Jim Brunson, elderly negro, with an ax in much the same manner. Grooms was killed last night.

NEGRO ELECTROCUTED FOR CAROLINA MURDER

COLUMBIA, S. C., Nov. 30.—(AP)—Joe Cunningham, 19-year-old negro, was electrocuted at the state penitentiary today for the murder of Sam C. Moore, elderly white merchant, of Columbia, who was slain in a holdup last July.

Carolina Officer Killed In Negro Church Brawl

GREENVILLE, S. C., Dec. 25.—(AP)—Seeking to halt what appeared to be a free-for-all fight at a negro church near here E. E. Milan, patrolman of the law enforcement division of the State Highway Department, was shot to death today.

The body was found, officers said, by a bus driver who passed by a few minutes after the killing. Sheriff's officers, who meanwhile had been called to investigate the disturbance at the church, arrived on the scene.

Two negroes, whose names the Sheriff's office was unable to furnish, were arrested in connection with the affair, but authorities were still searching tonight for two other negroes, including the man who was believed to have fired the fatal shot.

12 Negroes Lailed In Carolina Killing

GREENVILLE, S. C., Dec. 26.—(AP)—Twelve negroes were lashed today in the investigation of the slaying of State Highway Patrolman E. D. Milan, who was shot as he sought to stop a disturbance at a negro church Christmas festival.

NEGROES THREATENED WITH MOB VIOLENCE

Threats Develop Following Murder Of Officer

By United Press. GREENVILLE, S. C., Dec. 26.—Threats of mob violence were heard today as officers continued rounding up Negroes suspected in the slaying of State Highway Patrolman E. D. Milan last night.

The 23-year-old officer, whose home was at Newberry, was shot and beaten to death when he attempted to quiet a disturbance among Negroes holding a party at a school house six miles north of here.

Three Negroes, known to have been at the party, were held but Sheriff B. B. Smith said there was no other evidence against them. He planned to round up all Negroes who attended the party.

Killings-1934

South Carolina.

Spartanburg, S. C. Journal
August 9, 1934

Deplores Killings Among Negro Race

To the Editor of The Chronicle:

Will you give me space in your valuable paper to express my view concerning the many recent killings among our race lately as it is becoming alarming. Right lately here in Chesterfield county we have had three or more murders among our race with but one serving time for his misdeed. We as a race feel that there should be something done about it.

Will someone advise some plan that will make our race have more regard for each others life than some of us have had in the past? I would think of asking our County or those that we have to go before in court, that when we commit murder not to let us out on bond but see that we are punished for our sins. Then we will learn that when we take another man's life we will learn to give ours for it, then we will learn to respect the law of the land and God also. We should not be allowed to kill our brother and leave his mother, sisters or wife to grieve and suffer while we stay in jail two or three days for what we did to society, then out on bond to go back home and brag about it. Then others will say he killed and went free so I can do the same. We have been shouting long enough with all religion not thinking of our fellow man's plight. I am a firm believer in that when we commit a crime we should be punished but when we are law abiding to be treated as such. In short, to all law abiding citizens white and black, think this over and let's get together and uphold the laws of the land and Chesterfield county.

Thanking you very much for your space.

Levi C. Byrd.
WHITE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE

According to a recent record of the Coroner for Richland County, there have been in the City of Columbia 8 Negro men and women murdered since January 1st of this year. To this number must be added two more, one man and one woman killed during the past week. In the county, there have been three, for a grand total

of thirteen—almost 2 killings for each month. Why these needless murders of Negroes? There is but one reason—very little punishment. Negroes do not mind threatening, "I'll kill you, I don't mind the two or three years I'll get." Who is responsible? The white people. They have the machinery of the law absolutely in their hands—and the machine does not function efficiently when a Negro kills another Negro. The result is, there is nothing cheaper than Negro lives, and the law is not giving that protection which is the very basis of all laws. "Thou shalt not kill" may be God's Command and taught in the Sunday schools and preached in the churches, but in the Courts when the killing is confined to the Negro, it is a strange doctrine. Out of all the many killings—and there have been some brutal ones in this vicinity, the writer cannot recall one murderer who has been sentenced to the electric chair since its installation. We cannot even recall a sentence as long as 15 years imprisonment—even though the sentence for Manslaughter ranges from 2 to 30 years. Most Negroes are given nearer the minimum than even approximately the maximum. Surely all Negro murders are not justifiable or nearly so. It's about time that Negro murderers be given the punishment prescribed for murder.

der, later meeting near Michigan City where both negroes were hanged within 150 yards of the spot where a year ago a deputy sheriff had been slain in his investigation of the murder of Connie Gilispie, blamed on Jones and Houey, the two mol victims. The prisoners when seized were being brought from jails at Tupelo and Holly Springs to Ashland Miss., where they were to be tried for the Gillispie murder, which both, according to Mississippi officers had confessed. The lynching occurred Monday morning; the court session convened Monday morning.

COLUMBIA, S. C.
RECORD

AUG 16 1934
Homicide as a Pastime.

One of the arguments or more properly excuse for lynchings, most frequently advanced, is that the people who make up mobs are dissatisfied with inevitable delays that orderly court procedure involves. Persons, accused of crime, must be held in custody or under bond until the regular time for the court's convening arrives.

How much weight should be given this argument is indicated by one circumstance in connection with the two lynchings Monday in Benton county, Mississippi, where mobs in two sections of the county "overpowered" county officers and took from them two negro prisoners, accused of murder.

Killings-1934

MEMPHIS, TENN. COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MAR 9 1934

Reward Not Needed

Two negro children, one seven and the other eight years of age, were viciously attacked Sunday night. The youngest of the two was slain.

Negro citizens, aroused by the crime, have offered a reward for information leading to identity of the murderer. The reward may help, but it should not be, and probably is not, needed to spur justice in this case. Police should be just as zealous in tracking down the fiend as they would be if the children were white. And everyone knows what degree of zealousness that type of crime would inspire.

It will create a helpful spirit in Memphis if every law enforcement agency combines to demonstrate to the responsible negro citizenry that the law has a regard, too, for their children.

NASHVILLE, TENN.

EVE. TENNESSEAN

MAR 15 1934

"Uncle Billy's" Return.

"Uncle Billy" Martin, back from his wanderings was assured of a double welcome. There was Bedford County's citizenship at large, to which the news that he was not a corpse was pleasing; and there were his brother and six negroes who had been placed in custody in connection with his alleged death who felt even more deeply about the matter. The stage was set for a first rate murder trial when "Uncle Billy" came back to his old stamping grounds, totally unconscious of the trouble he had caused.

The uncertainties of circumstantial evidence were never more clearly demonstrated than in this Bedford County case. First it was noted that "Uncle Billy" had been absent since January 1, and their bones, partially destroyed by fire, were discovered in a cabin occupied by negroes. Foul play was suspected and arrests were made. Among the negroes held, one woman concocted an amazing story of how the prominent farmer was done to death, dissected and his remains consumed by fire.

This confession seemed to clinch the case, and the law was prepared to take its course, when the "corpus" obligingly showed up in the neighboring town of Lewisburg, and was recognized.

Today Shelbyville and Bedford County may return

to normal conditions, with the suspected parties once more at liberty, and the wandering gentleman resting once more by the family fireside.

There is natural wonder as to why the negro woman should have told her incriminating tale. It develops that she was "scared." In her confusion and uncertainty she said what she believed was expected, or perhaps desired. People have been ranged, legally and illegally, on lesser evidence. The case is one in which the unhurried pace of justice, about which so much complaint has been heard, has served a good purpose at last.

HOLD NEGRO IN DEATH

Arrested in Investigation of Fire Murder of Couple

MCKENZIE, Tenn., April 6.—Sheriff M. J. McLemore announced today that Baxter Anderson, 22, negro, was arrested at Tiptonville Wednesday night for participation in the Barksdale murder-arson crime, which occurred two miles south of McKenzie in June of last year.

John Howard, who allegedly confessed to murdering Mr. and Mrs. M. Barksdale, prominent couple, robbing and burning them, is still held in an unannounced jail. In his confession, Howard implicated four other men, including two negroes.

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
April 13, 1934

F. B. Evers Explains Signing Negro's Bond

Bread Company Official Withdraws as Surety

F. B. Evers, manager of the American Bread Company, in a statement today explained his recent signing of the bond of Mary Rush, Negro woman accused of killing L. A. Mitchell, insurance collector. Mr. Evers has since gone off the bond, which was in no way connected with the bread concern.

His statement follows: "My recent action in signing bond for our former employe, Mary Rush, accused of killing an insurance man, has been misunderstood, and I therefore make this brief statement in explanation at the request of my many friends among the Nashville insurance men.

"City Detective Ed Badacour and L. K. Head requested my aid in locating and arresting this woman, and suggested that as an inducement to her voluntary surrender that I offer to assist her in making bond. Through her husband, an employe of our firm, I advised her to surrender, and of course kept my word in regard to the bond.

"I did this to aid the officials getting her legally under arrest, never thinking my act would be criticised. Since my action was criticised by some insurance men, and perhaps by others, who do not know the true facts, I have

withdrawn the bond and the woman is again in jail.

"The American Bread Company, of which I am manager, has taken no part whatever in this matter, contrary to false rumors which have been circulated. Any one who cares to learn the true facts may question the City Detective Department, or the Davidson County Sheriff, or the Clerk of the Davidson County Criminal Court. A group of insurance men to whom I explained the above facts Thursday expressed themselves as thoroughly understanding and approving all my actions in the matter and requested a statement which I am making now."

The statement of Detectives Badacour and Head follows:

"We visited F. B. Evers at his office on Tuesday, April 3, and requested his aid in locating and placing under arrest Mary Rush accused of killing L. A. Mitchell. We had so far been unable to locate Mary Rush and hoped through Mr. Evers' aid to find her through her husband who was employed at the American Bread Company.

"Mr. Evers agreed to help us locate the woman and did so. We suggested that as an inducement to get her to surrender he might offer to aid her in making bond. This Mr. Evers did at our suggestion.

"The woman however has been re-arrested and is in the County Jail at present, her bond having been withdrawn."

Long Battle Is Won For Tenn. Men Who Defended Their Homes

A fight for the lives of three Negro workers in Lagarto, Tenn., that began in September, 1932, has ended victoriously after twice taking the cases to the Tennessee supreme court according to an announcement from the office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The three workers, Jake and Charlie Alexander and George Benton Oldham, were convicted of first degree murder at Lebanon, Tenn., on January 4, 1933, for the killing of Constable Ben L. Northern and Deputy M. E. Brown who attempted to arrest them on the evening of September 4, 1932, with

a blank warrant and the assist-criminal court, presided over by a white mob, following an altercation between a white and a Negro family.

The two Alexanders were sentenced to life imprisonment and Oldham was given twenty-five years. A fourth defendant was acquitted.

The cases were appealed to the state supreme court which on July 19, 1933, reversed the sentences and recommended a new trial, holding that the men were not guilty of murder in the first degree, but had merely defended their home from a mob.

At the second trial in Lebanon, Tenn., August 30—September 4, 1933, George Oldham was acquitted, Jake Alexander was convicted of "involuntary manslaughter" and given three years, while Charlie Alexander, his son, was convicted of "second degree murder" and sentenced to twelve years.

Again the cases were carried back to the state supreme court. On April 5, 1934, it affirmed the verdict against Jake Alexander, but cut the sentence to one year, while reducing that of Charlie Alexander to from one to five years. The men are even now eligible for parole and efforts are being made to have them freed at once.

JURORS FAIL TO CONVICT NEGRO WOMAN

Mrs. Mary Rush, Nashville,

Admits She Killed White

Insurance Man
By Herman Carter

NASHVILLE.—(ANP)—An all-white jury concluded after an hour's deliberation on the case of Mrs. Mary Rush, 29, Pearl street, who shot and killed L. A. Mitchell, 40, white insurance collector for the Income Life Insurance company April 12, 1934, because she repulsed his advances, that they could not reach a decision.

The trial lasted two days, beginning Wednesday morning in part II

23 Prospects Excused
The answer was "No." Twenty-three prospects were excused before the jury was selected.

The defense held that on the second day of April, 1934, one L. A. Mitchell, came to the house of Mrs. Rush, for the purpose of collecting the insurance due his company.

Upon learning that she did not have the money, he is alleged to have remarked: "Well, how about going to bed with me for the part of insurance due me?" Mrs. Rush rebuked him. He pushed her across the bed and a fight started. He struck her in her stomach.

After receiving the blow she ran to the bureau to secure a pistol "to scare him with." Mitchell accordingly to her testimony, "grabbed a lamp sitting on the table and threw it at me missing me and hitting the floor."

"Broke at Me"
She added: "He then broke at me from around the corner and I got scared and ducked behind the bureau door and shot him and he caught his ear and fell backwards out the door on his back and died."

The state, in an effort to secure a conviction of murder in the first degree, represented: that Mrs. Bush had no money, that she sat nursing and brooding with her gun, planning to do something, and that something was to kill L. A. Mitchell, that she was not telling the truth when she said that Mitchell tried to force her to go to bed with her.

Twelve character witnesses were brought from Sparta, Tenn., where Mitchell formerly lived to testify that Mitchell was a man who did not go with Negro women. They were: the sheriff, 10 deputies and U. S. postal clerks.

DEPUTY KILLS PRISONER

Negro Held In Attack Case Turns On His Captor

MEMPHIS.—(AP)—A Negro held as Melvin Randolph, 23, en route to Tiptonville, Tenn., for trial on a charge of attacking a 15-year-old girl, was shot to death late Sunday night by the officer who had him in custody.

Sheriff W. E. Haynes of Lake County, said Monday that he was forced to kill the Negro on a highway near Frayser Station when the Negro attacked him.

Sheriff Haynes removed the Negro from the County Jail here Sunday night and was returning him to Tiptonville to face trial. The state planned to ask the death penalty. The Negro had been held here for three months after lynching threats were heard at Tiptonville, the sheriff said.

"We stopped at a tourist camp near Frayser Station," the sheriff said. "We were getting back in the car when the Negro hit me in the eye and grabbed at my pistol. I shot him three times."

Find Pair Guilty of Crime Put on Race

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., March 16.—Down by the river in Knox county courthouse the mills of fate have been grinding out justice on a single case for the last two weeks. Lloyd Alley (white) of Gate City, Va., purchased a farm last summer just south of this city, then went back to his Virginia home and moved his family here, bringing his nephew, H. L. Pendleton, along.

On the night of July 30, last, while walking along the highway just outside the city limits in company with Pendleton, they were set upon by two "big burley" members of the race, who, after robbing Alley of a large sum of money, beat his head into a pulp and fleetness of foot on a saved Pendleton from a like fate so he stated to investigating officials.

At the preliminary trial of some month ago, the judge asked Pendleton how, in the dark, he was able to identify their attackers as "Negroes." By testifying himself the witness replied promptly. Neither the judge nor officers took his answer seriously and as a result of continued search Cecil Coon and Elgie Smith, both white men, of Dixon, Tenn., were later arrested and confessed to Alley's murder, stating under oath that Pendleton had employed them for that purpose and had agreed to pay them \$500 for the job, but had actually paid them a little less than \$400.

Pendleton was subsequently arrested in Baltimore and returned to Knoxville, where he made bond pending this term of court.

It was brought out in the trial here last week that Pendleton, just prior to instituting divorce proceedings against his former wife, had entrusted his uncle, Alley, with the sum of \$3,000, a part of which was squandered by Alley and never made good. It was also brought to light that the two men bought the farm referred to jointly, but was deeded to Pendleton.

The verdict of the jury, just rendered today, gave Coon and Pendleton 30 years each at hard labor in the state penitentiary at Nashville; Elgie Smith, turning state's evidence, was sentenced to the same prison for 25 years.

Robbers Shoot Farmer; Three Negroes Arrested

MEMPHIS, TENN., Dec. 31 (P)—Newfrey Graham, a 30-year-old Fayette County farmer, died in a hospital here today of pistol wounds suffered in a robbery near his farm home at the outskirts of Somerville, Tenn.

At Somerville, Sheriff A. M. Langdon said he had three negroes in custody. He said all three made statements that they were implicated in the slaying, and said they robbed the farmer.

The sheriff said the negroes were found with "about \$50 and Mr. Graham's watch and pistol." The slaying occurred "about daybreak today," Sheriff Langdon said.

FIRE CHIEF KILLED BY DRUNKEN NEGRO

Three Others Are Injured In
Tennessee Battle

By United Press.
TULLAHOMA, Tenn., Dec. 3.—The Tullahoma fire chief was dead two state highway patrolmen and a Tullahoma city patrolman were in a Nashville hospital today, the result of attempting to arrest a drink-crazed Negro who was beating his wife.

The Negro, Mitch Cawthorn, 60 was shot and killed in the gun battle after he had slain Charles Holt, 45, the fire chief, and wounded Ernest C. Armstrong, Tullahoma city patrolman and State Highway Patrolman Lindsley B. Smith.

Sergt. Clyde Odil of the state highway patrol, rushing to escort the ambulance carrying Smith to Nashville, crashed into an automobile which was driven into his path, and was seriously injured.

Armstrong and Smith are both in a serious condition.

Feeling was so intense here following the battle that Cawthorn's body was hidden and his wife removed to an adjoining county.

Journal and Guide
Predict Tragic End
8-4-34
If NAACP Loses
Norfolk, Va.
Year-Old Fight
Wanted For Murder
Believed Done By

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CHICAGO, Ill.—An almost identical reenactment of the early phases of the notorious Crawford case is being slowly fought out in the courts of this state to save Leander McCline from what his N. A. A. C. P. attorneys term certain death either at the hands of an infuriated Maury County, Tenn., mob or the biased courts of that locality with a 70 year record of unfair trials to Negroes.

McCline, 27, clear-eyed and eager to make good came to this city from near Knoxville, Tenn., where he had been employed on highway improvement projects August 30, 1931, and took up residence with his mother at 2505 Fulton Street.

Little is known of his life from that date until his sudden arrest in July, 1933. He had been working at odd jobs where and when he could find them, but there was nothing in his behavior here which made the charge of murder laid against him by the state of Tennessee seem justified.

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in Maury County. The sworn statement averred that George Owens died from these wounds on September 11, 1931, caused by the shooting on September 9, 1931. The demand for the return of McCline to stand trial for the murder of Owens was made by Governor Hill McAllister Tennessee, upon Governor Henry Horner on August 1, 1933.

Denies Being In Town.

Through its attorneys Irvin C. Mollison, member of the Legal Redress Committee of the Chicago Branch and Oliver A. Clark, it began to hold McCline in Illinois, safe from what appeared to be certain death either at the hands of a mob or by a legalized lynching as it was in this same Maury County that young Cordie Cheeks on December 15, 1933 was lynched after he had been set free by a Maury County Grand Jury.

McCline on the stand and else- It was in this same Maury Coun-
where denied that he was either in ty that Sheriff Claude Givson, said
the county of Maury or the state in an interview "nobody in Maury
of Tennessee on September 9, 1931, County was sorry that the nigger
swearing that he left the eastern was killed (referring to Cordie
part of Tennessee where he was Cheeks). They are sorry because
working at least 10 days before it was done so crude. I'll put all
this date of the murder. the evidence I can get before the
Grand Jury then I'll bet 10 to one
He presented witnesses to sup- there will be no indictments. If
port his statement and further tes- I were a private citizen I would
tified that the only time that he probably do something else."
had been out of the state of Illi- A delay of 30 days was secured
nois since first coming to Chicago when Attorneys Mollison and
was in October 1931 when he went Clark prayed an appeal holding
to St. Louis, Mo. McCline safe for this period and
then another stay until October 14
by Sheriff William D. Myering, then another stay until October 14
sheriff, Cook County, represented just one day after the filing of a
by States Attorney's office with bill of exceptions and then a stay
Assistant States Attorneys James until November 23, 1933.
V. Cunningham and Walter L. Mc- On November 15, Justice Fred-
Coy, put on the stand Thomas Muff erick DeYoung of the Illinois Su-
white, Mt. Pleasant Tenn. who preme Court issued a writ of error
claimed that he saw McCline, and made it a supercedes which
whom he called McClovin, in had the effect of preventing Sheriff
Maury County, Tenn. on Septem- Myering from returning McCline
ber 8, 1931. Huff admitted that he over to the agent of the Governor
did not know McCline previously of Tennessee. In the latter part
id to seeing him on this date. of April 1934, the Supreme Court
of Illinois affirmed the decision of
the lower court.

Ordered Sent Back

Hearings Continued 8 Times

Held on a fugitive warrant hear- ings were continued while he lan-five or six days in a desultory agent of Tennesseesee. guished in Cook County jail eightfashion, discharged the writ of On May 15 Adam Bloch deliver- times. habess corpus and remanded Mc-ed to Sheriff Myering of Cook

In the course of these various hearings before Judge John Prystalski it was brought out that Cline was wanted according to a sworn affidavit of Mrs. George Owen, (white) of Maury County, in the course of these various hearings before Judge John Prystalski it was brought out that Cline was wanted according to a sworn affidavit of Mrs. George Owen, (white) of Maury County,

Owen, (white) of Maury County, the Governor of Tennessee. Faced with shortage of money
Tenn., for the murder from am- It was this point when McCline. Faced with shortage of money
bush of George Owen, (white) de- was almost ready to leave on his for further appeals and with only
puty sheriff of Maury County. journey back to almost certain a matter of hours left before
The affidavit by the wife of the death that his family now penni-left Leander McCline would be
deceased stated that Leander Mc-less came to the Chicago Branch whisked back to Tennessee Atty
Cline shot George Owens from of the Association and asked for Mollison rushed into the United
ambush discharging two loads of assistance. This meant appealing States District Court, Northern
a shotgun into his body from be-the case to the Supreme Court of District before Judge Charles E
hind some bushes along a highway Illinois. Woodard and presented a petition

for habeas corpus in behalf of a fair trial if returned to Tennessee. Leander McCline, knowing at the time and that he will have no time that within another two security against lynching. This hours McCline would be on a train attitude of persons in Manry County going South. After listening to the statement made by the the plea of Atty. Mollison which Sheriff of that County after the Judge Woodard reluctantly issued lynching of Cordie Cheeks have the writ and made it returnable made the association feel that for May 17. Fifteen minutes later every effort should be made to as the agent of Tennessee was prevent McCline's return to Tennessee making his final arrangements for Tennessee.

the removal of McCline a Deputy. The public is asked to take an interest in this case as one white Marshall served the writ on Sheriff Myring and once again McCline person from Tennessee said, "It was held in Chicago. would have a salutary effect on the hearing on the writ was Tennessee if Illinois would refuse continued until May 29 when Atty. to send this man back.

Mollison asked to present his brief in support of the writ. This brief set forth a number of reasons why the writ should lie, pointing out that McCline was being deprived of his liberty and that Tennessee did not permit Negroes to sit on grand and petit juries further the demand for McCline was not made in good faith and he was wanted kill not for the crime but as stated by Farris, the agent of Tennessee to "make him tell who did it, as he, Farris was sure that a white bootlegger had killed Owens."

The brief further showed that Tennessee officials have not in the past 70 years given fair trials in the cases of Negroes accused of crime against a white person and incidents to support this contention were offered to support this contention.

On June 7, after Judge Woodard had considered the matter without permitting Atty. Mollison to present the alibi of McCline or show that the requisition was not made in good faith decided to dismiss the petition and stated that he did not want to decide contrary

he did not want to decide contrary to a decision of the Supreme Court of Illinois. Again McCline was in a position to once more head for the South and Maury County.

At this point, funds run low, the Chicago Branch was facing the costs of an appeal if McCline was to be kept from going South. Having already spent over \$200, an appeal was made to the National Office which contributed \$100. Immediately Atty. Mollison prayed an appeal to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, on June 25, almost three years after the supposed commission of the crime. Having filed a transcript of the record in this last appeal, time allowed for filing briefs and abstracts, Leander McCline more is held from returning to Tennessee.

Unbiased white people of standing in Maury County have stated that Leander McCline will not get

Tommy Field Shot in Levee
Camp Bunkhouse
10-8-34

Police guns early yesterday ended the life of Tommy Field, negro, sought as a suspect in the murder of Narciaco (Nino) Vannucci, who was shot to death nearly a year ago in his driveway of his home at 871 North Decatur.

The negro was killed in a bunk house at a levee camp five miles north of Marion, Ark., at 2:30 o'clock yesterday morning by Detective Sergt. A. O. Clark.

Clark said that Field snapped a pistol at him and he fired six shots. Deputy Bill Williford and Deputy John Willard of Crittenden County fired on the negro after Clark had emptied his gun, the officers reported.

Patrolmen Roy Faught and A. F. Patterson, said they received information that Field was implicated in the murder of Vannucci and was a member of a band of negro highwaymen responsible for at least a dozen holdups. The patrolmen located Field at the levee camp and with Sergts. Clark and Frank England went to Marion early yesterday. They were also accompanied by deputies Williford and Willard.

"As we went into the bunk house we found Field sleeping in bed," Clark said. "As I pulled the covers

Vannucci was shot to death in an attempted robbery as he drove into his driveway at his home about 11:00 o'clock at night. Officers refused to divulge how they obtained information linking Field with the murder.

Negro Dies After Official Is Slain

Adapted
Attempted Arrest Leaves

2 Dead, 2 Wounded In
Tennessee Gun Battle

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
December 26, 1934

NEGRO IS HELD FOR SLAYING

Witnesses Identify Suspected
As Slayer of Clerk.

Brown flashed his light upon a pocketbook which on investigation showed that the name of Bill Barker might be the owner of the bill fold. Miss Willie B. Howard, who was going home with Miss Stewart at the time of the shooting, stated that when the man accosted them "She ran and told Fannie to run, too, and that when she turned a corner she heard something that sounded like a shot."

12-3-34
TULLAHOMA, TENN., Dec. 2.—(P)—Anas eve shooting of James William negro and a city official were fatally shot. Huston, clerk at an East Vine ave- nue store, identified Lem Wright, a city policeman and State highway patrolman were wounded here this afternoon as officers sought to arrest the negro, Cawthron, on complaints brought against him by a neighbor.

Dead were Charles Holt, assistant superintendent of the city water and light department, and Cawthron.

Wounded and taken to a hospital at Nashville were Ernest C. Armstrong, policeman, and State Highway Patrolman L. S. Smith.

City Judge E. H. Campbell estimated that more than a dozen shots were fired from the time Armstrong arrived at the house in South Tullahoma to arrest Cawthron until the battle was over and the negro lay dead beside a church, under which he had earlier taken refuge.

Campbell said that about 20 or 30 minutes elapsed from the time Armstrong was shot until the negro was found under the church by Smith, Holt and Highway Patrol Sergeant W. C. Hale. By that time he said "quite a few" citizens had gathered and "a good many were armed with shotguns," but they did not join in the fight which cost two lives.

As feeling ran high here Coffee County officers had Cawthron's body taken to Manchester, county seat, and his wife was moved from town to a place of safety.

"There had been a little trouble down here in negro town," said Campbell, "and one of Cawthron's neighbors had made a complaint about him, fighting or something of that sort. Policeman Armstrong went down to arrest Cawthron."

"When the policeman arrived, the negro told him not to get out of his car. But he did and Cawthron started firing a .45 automatic. Armstrong was shot three times between the heart and the shoulder."

"Superintendent Sam L. Cook, of the city water and light department, was in the office here and the report of the first shooting came to him. That was when Assistant Superintendent Holt and Highway Patrolman Smith were sent for. A few minutes later Sergt. Hale came in and was also dispatched to aid the officers."

"This Cawthron was over 60 years old and mean and impudent, often causing trouble around here. The patrolman and Holt found the negro under the building of the North M. E. Church, colored. He had gotten out and was proceeding around the corner of the church when he shot Holt and Smith and Hale shot him."

White Man Held In Death Of Woman

12-29-34
HENDERSON—Miss Fannie Stewart, 22, was found murdered here Saturday night, December 22, and a white man was lodged in the Rusk County jail pending hearing. The woman was found shot through the head and death apparently was instantaneous.

The body was found at the southeast corner of the Henderson High School building. Bob Barker was arrested on the scene of the shooting by City Officer Tatum Brown, and was placed in jail after admitting that he shot the woman. A .25-calibre pistol was found in his possession.

In looking around on the ground

Killings-1934

Texas.

YES, FOLK, IT HAPPENED IN TEXAS!

An all-white jury assessed the death penalty upon a white man in Dallas, Texas, last week for the alleged wanton and premeditated murder of an aged Dallas County Negro, marking the second time in the history of that county where such a sentence has been imposed upon a white man for killing a Negro.

Houston Defender
The change in interracial attitude in Dallas during the last two decades has been next to incredible, for it was once one of the worst places in Texas when it came to the Negro and the treatment accorded the race there. *Houston, Tex.*

Realizing that the treatment accorded the Negro was doing the city irreparable damage, a group of the leading white citizens of Dallas set about to overthrow the political regime which was dominating, controlling and disgracing their fair city, and the first step toward this reform was to abolish the "white man's primary" in connection with municipal elections.

This was done by bringing out a strong independent ticket of really big white men at the general city election to oppose the candidates nominated in the Democratic primary, which resulted in the defeat of the Democratic nominees. The city charter subsequently was amended and the primary election was abolished.

9-29-34
Since that time Dallas has been a different city and Negroes have been getting a larger measure of justice and fairness both in civic matters and the courts; while the mob spirit, which quondam was synonymous with Dallas, seems to have been completely obliterated from the North Texas metropolis.

When it comes to enforcing the laws and meting out punishment to those found guilty, through orderly and legal processes, neither color, class nor creed should be taken into the consideration; but in the average Texas and Southern city this un-American course is followed and it is wreaking havoc with our cherished ideals and institutions, and unless this practice is checked and changed this section is headed for the "last round-up."

However, there seems to be a sentiment in the average Southern community to mete out some sort of punishment to a white culprit when he kills a "slaverytime" Negro; but if his victim is some colored person born since the Civil War, in numerous cases the grand jury will not even return a true bill against the Nordic slayer.

A Negro was killed in the court room at Crockett, Texas, some months ago as he was about to face trial for the alleged slaying of a Houston County white man, the Negro's slayer being a relative of the slain man.

Just as predicted in *The Defender* at the time, the Houston County grand jury refused to indict the white youth, and the wanton murder right under the eyes of the judge and in the presence of a crowded court room is a closed incident.

Had the tables been reversed and a Negro committed such a crime, if he had lived to get away from the mobsters at the time, he would have served as fodder for the electric chair at

Huntsville ere now, unless some smart lawyer had been able to stay the execution by appealing the verdict.

Dallas is showing the way along many lines in Texas which some of the other urban centers will do well to emulate.

Killings-1934

ACCUSED SLAYER KILLED IN COURT

Nephew of Murdered Man
Shoots Negro as He Goes on
Trial in Crockett, Texas

CROCKETT, Texas, April 23. (AP)—Ben Ellis today shot to death in a crowded court room a Negro accused of slaying his uncle, J. M. Ellis, white merchant.

A jury was being selected to try the Negro, Frank Brisby, for murder. Ellis, 24, rose in his seat, drew a pistol and fired one shot.

Then he calmly lit a cigarette, handed the pistol to the sheriff and waited for the commotion to cease.

District Judge Ben F. Dent ordered the court room cleared. Friends crowded around Ellis and when his bond was fixed at \$2,500, the sum was quickly posted and he was released.

The bullet which killed the Negro narrowly missed State Senator Nat Patton, defense attorney, and several other lawyers.

Witnesses said the shot was fired at a range of about five feet. Ellis was seated on the front row of the court room. He gave no warning before he fired.

Six jurors had been selected to hear the testimony in the case when it came to its abrupt end.

Negro Lynched In Courtroom: Lynchers Freed

Despite Threats, Court
Makes No Search
for Arms

CROCKETT, Texas, April 23.—Frank Brisby, Negro worker, was lynched in a crowded court room here today while an all-white jury was being selected to try him on a charge of murdering J. M. Ellis, a white man.

Despite open threats against the life of the Negro worker, no attempt was made to disarm the lynchers who packed the court. The fatal shot was fired by Ben Ellis, nephew of the dead man. The murderer was immediately released under \$1,000 bond signed by several

prominent citizens who thus signified their approval of the courtroom lynching of the Negro workers.

Brisby had been arrested on "suspicion," following the killing of J. M. Ellis.

Negro Shot Down In Court Room, Denied Medical Assistance

CROCKETT, Texas, April 23. (AP)—While arm court attendants looked on, Ben Ellis walked into district courtroom Monday and fatally shot Frank Brisby, a colored prisoner, who was on trial charged with slaying Ellis' uncle.

The court attendants allowed Ellis to walk up to the rail, lean over and draw a gun, without making any effort to stop him.

As Brisby slumped in his chair, men and women fought to gain the exits.

The Negro prisoner did not die immediately but was allowed to lie on the floor for an hour without medical aid. The officers in the court room explained they would not move the wounded man because they feared violence from the mob outside.

Brisby had steadfastly maintained his innocence.

A Species Of Southern Justice

DOWN in Crockett Texas in a crowded courtroom they were selecting a jury to try FRANK BRISBY.

BRISBY was charged with the murder of J. M. ELLIS a white merchant. His chances of an acquittal were about one in a thousand. It was hundred-to-one bet that death in the electric chair soon would be his doom.

Yet with everything against him BRISBY was not permitted even to take his chances. While the jury was being selected, BEN ELLIS, 24-year-old nephew of the deceased man, drew a pistol and opened fire on BRISBY.

The annals of Southern justice will never reveal a more contemptible murder. Many an innocent black man has paid with his life for crimes charged against him but the horror of these outrages has been tempered by at least a cloak of judicial procedure.

Even a charred and bullet-ridden body dangling from a tree limb left there "by hands of parties unknown," as the coroner's verdict usually states, cannot compare with BRISBY's murder as a new low in depravity. It was in contempt of the dignity and order of the court, saying him; it was cold blooded, deliberate and defiant.

ELLIS' act was a clear illustration of the lightness in which lives of black people are held in many parts of the South. If indicted, he hardly will be convicted for the murder of BRISBY, and life in Crockett, Texas, will go merrily on.

In a moment of fury a brooding relative tried, sentenced and took the life of a prisoner charged with the murder of J. M. ELLIS. To the injury done BRISBY, the State of Texas and the good name of the

Accused Negro Slayer Is Killed In Texas Court By Victim's Nephew

CROCKETT, TEXAS, April 23.—(AP)—Ben Ellis today shot to death in a crowded courtroom a negro accused of slaying his uncle, J. M. Ellis, white merchant. A jury was being selected to try the negro, Frank Brisby, for murder. Ellis, 24, rose in his seat, drew a pistol and fired one shot.

Then he calmly lit a cigaret, handed the pistol to the sheriff and waited for the commotion to cease. District Judge Ben F. Dent ordered the courtroom cleared. Friends crowded around Ellis and when his bond was fixed at \$2,500, the sum was quickly posted and he was released.

The bullet which killed the negro narrowly missed State Senator Nat Patton, defense attorney, and several other lawyers.

Witnesses said the shot was fired at a range of about five feet. Ellis was seated on the front row of the courtroom. He gave no warning before he fired.

Six jurors had been selected to hear the testimony in the case when it came to its abrupt end. Sentiment against the negro has been strong since the Ellis killing two weeks ago. He was kept under close guard in the county jail as a precaution against any possible violence. A machine gun was mounted at the jail.

Brisby was brought to court under heavy guard. Just before start of the trial two pistols were taken from Garland Ellis, father of Ben Ellis and brother of J. M. Ellis.

Such are the by-products of "civilization"

United States, Crockett no doubt will add the insult of indifference.

Because He Was Black

Some idea can be had of the Houston County grand jury's notions about law enforcement when they closed a recent seven-day session without taking any action upon the courtroom slaying by a 24-year old white man of a Negro on trial in the court for murder. The killing took place last April 23rd, and no action has been taken yet to bring the white man to trial. Why? Especially since District Judge Dent had instructed the grand jury to take action in the case? The only answer which The Informer can imagine is that it was because the victim was black.

Man Is Murdered in Texas Courtroom; Slayer Freed

CROCKETT, Tex., April 27. — Not content with lynching men, women and children all over the streets of Texas, they have now started lynching them in the courtrooms. This amazing incident took place Monday morning when Ben Ellis, a white man, walked into the courtroom and in the presence of a judge, a jury, several policemen, a state senator and scores of "spectators" shot to death Frank Brisby, a laborer, who was about to go on trial for murder.

Brisby had been accused of killing J. M. Ellis, former cashier of the Crockett State bank, on April 7. When the bank official was found dead, a man hunt immediately began for the "nigger" responsible for the killing. Brisby, happening to cross the path of the mob, was locked up and charged with the crime.

So little evidence was there against Brisby that State Senator Nat Patton volunteered to defend him. He had stated that he meant to show that Brisby was not guilty of the crime and would contend for his release. It was this fact that was responsible for Brisby's death. Ben Ellis, nephew of the dead man, had stated openly that he would kill Brisby. Police in the room knew of his intentions, and at one time took from his father, Garland Ellis, a pistol. Yet, with the knowledge of the fact that the man on trial was

to be slain, no precautions were taken to protect him. Instead, Brisby was seated where it was a simple matter to point a pistol at him and pull the trigger. Ellis did that, and immediately became a hero. After the shooting he was placed under "technical arrest," bond raised for him, and amidst shouts and applause, strutted from the courtroom. It is openly stated hereabouts that he will never be brought to trial, but that after a while, the bonds will be set aside.

It is also openly stated hereabouts that the Ellis clan knew something about how the bank officer came to his death, and were afraid that Brisby and Patton would expose them, and for that reason, decided to get him out of the way before he could talk.

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Lynching in Court Room

At Crockett, Texas, a Negro accused of murder had been under close guard by the authorities, who had even kept a machine gun mounted on the roof of the county jail to prevent lynching. Yet, as the jury was being selected to try the prisoner, a white man arose in the court room and shot him dead. The victim of the first murder had been the uncle of the murderer in the second case.

We shall now see what we shall see. If one man can conduct a lynching, here we have one under the very eyes of the court, with the murderer handing over his revolver to the sheriff after the deed is done. If the law is to retain prestige at all in Texas, it would seem that this killer must suffer the extreme penalty.

For all our boasted education and confidence in the law, we have some strange manifestations of logic. If the Negro had been already tried and acquitted, with the nephew of the victim believing him really guilty, we might see some excuse for assassination. But, under the circumstances, had the nephew waited a few hours, the law might have decided to cause the defendant's death. How much more of a punishment did the nephew suppose he was inflicting on the accused by snuffing his life out and thus depriving him of the anxiety attending a trial?

PISTOL BATTLE IS FATAL TO COLORED YOUTH, WHITE MAN

Tuskegee Student and White Business Man Mortally Wounded In Fight Following Argument—Negro Had Tried To Avoid Trouble By Driving From Scene—Whites Give Chase.

Funeral services were held Tuesday morning from East Trinity Church, McGowen and St. Charles, for Melvin Garner, 21-year-old Houston

Negro and Tuskegee Institute Undertaking Company was in charge student, who received mortal wounds of the body. last Saturday in a pistol battle with three white men near the Southern Pacific roundhouse on Hardy Street.

Although outnumbered and literally ganged, Garner mortally wounded Thomas J. Fatjo, 55-year-old white business man of Houston, during the pistol battle. The wounded white man expired Monday evening.

Fatjo and one of his sons, W. C. Fatjo, were in a car that barely missed a collision with the car driven by Garner, it is alleged. They stopped and hot words passed between them, but neither car struck the other and no damage was done either to the cars or occupants.

Trying to avoid trouble, Garner, who was en route to the Southern Pacific shops for his uncle, J. A. Sledge, hastened away from the scene of the argument and Fatjo and his son gave chase in their car, covering several blocks in the Fifth Ward.

Garner drove his car on the Southern Pacific property and the Fatjos closed in on him, pulled their pistols and began firing at the Negro youth. Garner grabbed his pistol and returned the fire, shooting the elder Fatjo twice. During the shooting the railroad watchman fired several shots at the colored youth, and it is not known who inflicted the fatal wound upon Garner.

The railroad watchman claimed that he tried to disarm Garner, whereupon the colored youth fired several shots at him. Garner used a .38-calibre pistol which contained only five bullets.

The slain boy's uncle, J. A. Sledge, happened up just as the shooting began and gave the police a detailed account of the battle; but his version was not published in any of the daily newspapers. Mr. Sledge doubts that Garner was killed by the elder Fatjo, and states that young Fatjo threatened to shoot him (Sledge) when he asked him not to fire another bullet in Garner's prostrate body.

Garner, who was a native of Hempstead, was a graduate of Yates High School here, and a student of Tuskegee Institute. He was a member of the independent longshoremen's association and was earning money with which to return to school in the fall. He was the adopted son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Sledge, 3025 Anita.

Following the funeral program the body was carried overland to Hempstead, where interment took place. Pastor J. S. Scott preached the funeral sermon and McCoy and Harrison

White Man Given Death For Murder Of Aged Negro

DALLAS. The State of Texas did not return by 5 o'clock the next morning, a searching party was organized, which found his mutilated body near Mountain Creek. The other white witnesses testified to seeing Short near the scene of the murder. First Assistant District Attorney Henry Tirey and Assistant Dean Gauldin conducted the prosecution.

The state produced direct evidence that Cecil Short and William Stone (also white) planned the killing of the aged man, who was murdered a few miles south of Grand Prairie as he was going from his home to the home of R. G. Camp by whom he was employed. The aged man was

BULLETIN
The jury in the case of Cecil Stone (white) on trial for the murder of Aaron Jones, 76-year-old Negro, brought in a verdict of guilty at 10:05 Tuesday night, September 12, and Stone was immediately sentenced to death in Judge Noland G. Williams' Criminal District Court No. 2. The jury was out from 6 o'clock until 10:05 Tuesday evening.

robbed of \$11 which he had pinned in his shirt pocket at the time of the killing.

Seven witnesses, the principal one of whom was Grady Busby, were used by the state to make its case airtight. Busby testified that Short and Stone told him on the afternoon of August 15 that they were going to put the old man on the spot. Other witnesses were George Jones son of the slain man; R. G. Camp dairyman; Walter Berlinger, Negro C. F. Morrow of Arcadia Park, A. F. Daniels, farmer, and Dr. A. E. Hill acting county health officer, all of whom are white.

Busby, who was arrested shortly after the killing, and who was indicted for the murder along with Short and Stone told the court that on the afternoon of August 15, he was at work south of Grand Prairie when Short and Stone asked him to take them home in his truck. On the trip, Short remarked that they had seen Jones that afternoon, and he had his shirt pocket pinned up.

"We are going to put the old — on the spot," Busby quoted Short as saying.

"When we got about half a mile south of Mr. Camp's house they told me to let them out and told me that if anything happened there that night, I was to say I carried them all

the way home," Busby said. "I didn't hear anything about Aaron Jones' death until the next day."

On cross-examination by Defense Attorney Bill Bowen, Busby said he told no one of the plans of Short and Stone to rob and kill Jones until after he was questioned after the killing. George Jones, son of the slain man, said that his father left home about 6 o'clock on the afternoon of the 15th and that when he

did not return by 5 o'clock the next morning, a searching party was organized, which found his mutilated body near Mountain Creek. The other white witnesses testified to seeing Short near the scene of the murder. First Assistant District Attorney Henry Tirey and Assistant Dean Gauldin conducted the prosecution.

Killings-1934

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Virginia
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The Wrong Pronoun or the Wrong Conclusion

Charles H. Houston, chief defense counsel in the Crawford case, is reported to have made the following statement while addressing the white judge and officials of the court during the course of the trial.

"We cannot hope to rise by tearing down your institutions. We can only hope to rise by convincing you that we are entitled to share your institutions." 1-6-34

The Richmond Planet has the highest respect for the ability, integrity and courage of Mr. Houston, but dissents from his use of the pronoun "your" in referring to American institutions. He should have used "our" if he meant the maintenance of the principles enunciated in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. Richmond, Va.

American independence and her institutions are the result of the joint contribution of white men and Negroes. They belong as much to one as they do to the other, and this fact is not altered because the whites have used the force which comes by superior numbers to deny to Negroes their just participation in the government and an equitable share of the benefits issuing from the American institutions.

On the other hand, if Dean Houston made reference to the Jim Crow jury system and to other species of discrimination practiced against Negroes in Virginia, his pronoun was correct, but his conclusions were absolutely wrong. The only way the Negro can hope to rise is by tearing down those institutions in this country which are built upon the error that Negroes are members of an inferior race, and as such are not entitled to equal rights, privileges and immunities under the American institutions.

The Crawford Trial A Credit To Virginia

From almost every standpoint qualified Negroes in Loudoun (with Virginia has a right to be proud of the exception of the two mentioned the manner in which the recent trial by the judge), one may at least doubt of George Crawford at Leesburg was more than apt to be taken elsewhere as evidence of race prejudice.

Judge McLemore's attitude was eminently judicial, there was no disorder of any kind, the prosecution was absolutely fair in its conduct of the case and was scrupulously careful not to arouse racial animosities, the four Negro defense attorneys were treated by every one with the utmost courtesy and consideration, and the verdict of the jury was entirely equitable.

When the conduct and outcome of the Crawford case is contrasted with that of the Scottsboro case here can be no doubt that Virginia justice appears in a much more favorable light than Alabama justice. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which handled the Crawford defense, was much pleased with the reception which the four colored attorneys received, as well as with the atmosphere of the courtroom.

The association naturally was not pleased with the manner in which Negroes were excluded from the juries for the grand and petit juries. This is the only aspect of the case which is disappointing to any substantial body of Virginians. Although numerous other courts in the State are making it a practice to place Negroes on grand juries, the Circuit Court of Loudoun was unable to find a way to do this.

Judge J. R. H. Alexander, who presides over that circuit, testified at the preliminary hearing on November 6-7 that he had not put any Negroes on the grand jury because he knew only two in the county who were, in his opinion, qualified. He asserted that one of these was exempt and the other objected to serving.

It was authoritatively stated at that time that at least one Negro would be found on the venire for the petit jury when the case was brought to trial on December 12. But when the trial opened, it developed that in filling the vacancies on the jury list the three jury commissioners had chosen only whites. All of them testified that they had considered the hundreds of Negroes on the voting list carefully, but that not one was "qualified."

Assuming that Judge Alexander and the jury commissioners were sincere in saying that they knew of no

"We cannot hope to rise by tearing down your institutions," Dean Houston said. "We can only hope to rise by convincing you that we are entitled to share your institutions." of Loudoun believe in law and order. —Virginius Dabney in Richmond Times-Dispatch.

It is hardly an exaggeration to say that this appeal, combined with the demeanor throughout the case of the man who made it and his associates, went far to convince the people of Loudoun that the Negro race is entitled to opportunities which heretofore have frequently been denied it.

But if the complete exclusion of Negroes from the grand and petit juries in the Crawford case is cause for regret, everything else about the trial was creditable to Loudoun County and to Virginia in the highest degree. It was the first time in Southern case of comparable magnitude that the defense has been represented wholly by Negro lawyers. There was some apprehension as to how Loudoun would react, but the reaction was as favorable as any one could have wished.

The defense lawyers said they had not had a single unpleasant experience in the county either during their preliminary visits or during the trial itself. Not only so, but they exchanged many compliments with the prosecution attorneys during the arguments to the jury on the closing day.

Commonwealth's Attorney John Galleher and Frank Wray and State Senator Cecil Connor, who handled the prosecution, deserve well in the State for the manner in which they permitted no hint of racial animosity to enter the proceedings. Whereas in the Scottsboro case the prosecution injected bigoted appeals to racial and sectional prejudice, in the Crawford case the prosecution tossed bouquets to the Negro attorneys retained by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, with headquarters in New York City, and did not even mention in the closing arguments to the jury that the defendant was a colored man.

Howard University Law School is somewhat apprehensive as to whether there might be a possibility of mob violence at Leesburg, in view of Governor Rolph's blatant endorsement of lynch law. He took the precaution, therefore, of having Crawford guarded by fifteen State motor vehicle police. The lack of tension in and around the courthouse during the trial would seem to show conclusively that Crawford would not have been molested, even if he had been left unguarded. The good humor and the excellent behavior of the crowds which attended the trial convinced every one that the people

His own lawyers, indeed, would most certainly not have entered the case at all if they had known at the outset what they found out during the course of the trial. Crawford had assured them that he was not in Virginia when Mrs. Hsley and her maid were murdered. They took him at his word and built their defense around his alibi. They discovered when it was too late that he was lying.

The poise, the dignity and the good manners of the colored defense lawyers made a strong impression on the people of Loudoun during the course of the trial. This was especially true with respect to Charles H. Houston, 36-year-old dean of the

Howard University Law School in Washington and chief defense counsel. It was his first murder case, and he naturally was not as adept at cross-examination or as familiar with criminal procedure as a veteran criminal lawyer would have been.

But his brilliant mind, his dignified bearing and his forceful personality all combined to convince those who saw him in action that he has a great future before him. And his moving statement to the court as to the hope of his race for recognition was one of the most impressive things this writer has ever heard.

COLORED LAWYERS VS WHITE

There has been tried in Loudoun county, Virginia, a case in which the defendant was a negro who was defended by four negro lawyers and prosecuted by three white lawyers. The rucus which was expected to develop did not, while on the contrary, everything went so fine that the trial judge, Judge McLemore, was quite uplifted and made a very complimentary talk at the end of the case. He said:

"This case has been almost an oasis in a desert in many respects—certainly in its conduct. In all the cases I have tried in twenty-seven or twenty-eight years on the bench, I have never tried one where the facts have been such as these, that the temper of the courtroom has been such as it has been here. I have never seen counsel conduct themselves with such restraint, such courtesy, such respect for the feeling of others. I approach the close of the case with the feeling that I have somehow caught a new vision of how a case ought to be conducted."

This case had attracted more than ordinary attention because the question of excluding negroes from the jury had been brought in. The negro prisoner, George Crawford, was charged with the murder of a white woman and her maid. There was no doubt of his guilt, though it seems that he got off with a life sentence on the ground that others were involved and there was ultimate hope of getting at the others through him.

The three negro lawyers who defended him came down from the negro school, Howard university at Washington, which the United States government lavishly supports. They made the motion to quash the all white venires but this was overruled by the judge and the trial proceeded with the white jury. The secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was on hand and behaved with proper decorum. The crowds around the courthouse showed no ill feeling and everything was as placid as a spring day. The passages between the negro lawyers and the white ones seem to have been on the order of Gaston and my dear Alphonso, and each bunch highly complimented the other at the end of the case. Well, it's interesting to speculate on how such a trial might have come out under somewhat different circumstances.

Crawford Is Not Satisfied With His Trial

Journal and Guide
Objects To Failure To Call Witnesses

For Defense
2-10-34

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Richmond, Va.
Again Denies Guilt; Thinks Lawyers Did Their Best

Exclusively To Journal and Guide

RICHMOND, Va.—George Crawford, principal in the celebrated case bearing his name, is not satisfied with the way his trial was conducted in Leesburg in December.

He chiefly objects to the failure of defense attorneys to call witnesses to his trial for murder, who had testified in his extradition hearing in Boston, establishing an alibi that he was not in Virginia at the time Mrs. Agnes Boeing Ilsley and her white maid, Mrs. Nina Buckner, were slain on the former's country estate.

He regrets exceedingly that Butler R. Wilson, Boston attorney, was not present at Leesburg to offer testimony which would have benefited the defense in Crawford's opinion.

"Trial Not Fair"

He charges that he was manhandled because he refused to sign a confession at the insistence of Commonwealth Attorney John Galleher, of Loudoun County, Va.

He does not think his trial was fair.

He denies any guilt in connection with the two murders.

He denies that he knows any man named Charlie Johnson, cited at this trial as the real slayer, whose arrest and conviction could never be effected if Crawford were put to death in the electric chair.

He thinks his lawyers did what they thought best, "but there were

too many lies told." He still has confidence in his attorneys.

If allowed to take the stand, Crawford says, he would have repudiated the testimony of many people who had testified but knew nothing about him whatsoever.

Exclusive Guide Interviewer: He regards the charges against him as a frameup.

He asserts that the state packed its witness list with people who knew nothing about him or the case.

This and other startling information was secured by the Journal and Guide when two of its reporters secured, after considerable difficulty, an exclusive interview with Crawford last Saturday.

Informed confidentially from a reliable source that an interview with the celebrated case principal, Crawford, would reveal something of national interest, and that not only was Crawford convinced more than ever that he is the "goat" for the real slayer, the Guide assigned a reporter on January 30 to seek an interview.

Journal and Guide
Judge McLemore, in whose jail Crawford is now held, said he could not permit anyone to see Crawford without the permission of the court, the commonwealth's attorney, and the defense attorney.

2-10-34
The Guide wired Judge James L. McLemore, Prosecutor Galleher, and Charles H. Houston, chief defense counsel, requesting that they telegraph permission to the sheriff. Judge McLemore telephoned from Suffolk on Thursday, February 1, that we had his permission. On the same day Mr. Galleher wired that we had his consent to interview the prisoner. Mr. Houston also wired on Thursday, saying: Crawford refuses to talk outside my personal presence. Letter follows."

Richmond, Va.
In the letter he said: "Confirming my telegram today, Crawford will not talk outside my personal presence. We took this precaution because the Buckner case is still pending. He and I agreed that he would not recognize any written authorization from me. So the only thing I can do is to arrange to meet you in Richmond."

Permission Obtained
"I think I will be in Petersburg Sunday at Virginia State to speak to the students: If so, I could arrange to come back by Richmond Monday morning and let you see Crawford. If I find I will be at Petersburg, I will wire you."

The Guide did not get a wire confirming his visit to Petersburg. In the meantime, the Guide had wired its Richmond correspondent that telegraphic permission had been requested of the Judge McLemore, Prosecutor Galleher, and Atty. Houston, as required by the sheriff, and advised him to keep in constant

touch with the sheriff in order to have the interview take place as soon as he had received the necessary authorization.

Following these instructions, our correspondent was granted the interview on Saturday. What instructions and so forth were forwarded to the sheriff by the two attorneys and the judge is not known to the Guide.

The Journal and Guide in this instance is not seeking to grind any axes, place any blame, nor broadcast any propaganda for or against Crawford or other principals in the case. It merely acted on a reliable news tip and publishes herewith the story secured.

Reasserts Alibi

Conversing with Crawford in the Henrico County jail Saturday, Guide reporters found that his main objection grew out of the fact that defense attorneys failed to call Butler R. Wilson, Boston attorney; a Mrs. Peterson, of 108 S. Tralnum Street, Boston; and Mrs. Mary Fracture, of 205 W. Springfield Street, Boston, to testify in his behalf in the trial at Leesburg.

Crawford told the Guide reporters that he and Mrs. Berda DeNeal, his former sweetheart, who testified against him at the trial, left Leesburg in September and lived with Mrs. Fracture at the Springfield Street address until Mrs. DeNeal returned to Virginia in November.

Mrs. Fracture, Crawford said, would testify that he lived with her during this period, and Mrs. Peterson would testify that he lived at her home until the time of his arrest on a charge of suspected burglary.

Abused In Jail

He also regretted that Mr. Wilson was not called, as he was the man to whom he says he showed a newspaper article relating to the crime. When he saw his picture in the paper in connection with the crime, he declared, he also showed that to Mr. Wilson.

Turning then to events in the Boston jail after his arrest, Crawford declared:

"Herbert French is the name of the man who was in jail when Mr. Galleher came there and tried to make me come out and make a confession. French tried to persuade me not to come out and talk with Mr. Galleher. When I refused to come out, he and another man came into the cell and pulled me out, calling me all kinds of bad names and handling me roughly."

"They jerked me around and shook me, trying to make me confess and told me that if I did not say I killed the women they had enough evidence to convict me anyway. One man with Mr. Galleher had a book and pencil. Mr. Galleher told me I had better confess, telling me 'you know how we do niggers down in Virginia,' but I didn't ever tell him anything, so he told the man with the book and pencil to write what he told him to write. (The unsigned "confession" was admitted as evidence at the Leesburg trial.)

"Then he abused me some more and tried to get me to tell him something about some Charlie Jackson. When he looked at the paper he took out of his pocket, he told the man to say Charlie Johnson."

Killings-1934

Virginia

Crawford was then asked some point blank questions, as follows:

Q. Do you think you had a fair trial?

A. No.

Q. Are you guilty of the murder of Mrs. Ilsley?

A. No.

Q. Would you plead guilty of your own accord to the murder of Mrs. Buckner?

A. No.

Q. Do you have any idea who murdered Mrs. Ilsley and her maid?

A. No.

Q. Is there any such man as Charlie Johnson?

A. No, not that I know of. The first I heard of him was when his name was mentioned by Mr. Galleher.

Wanted To Testify

Q. Who do you think murdered Mrs. Ilsley and her maid, Mrs. Buckner, if you did not? A. I weren't there and don't know who killed them.

Q. Are you satisfied with the way the trial was conducted and the manner in which the lawyers handled the case? A. I guess the lawyers done what they thought was best, but there were too many lies told.

Continuing, Crawford said: "I wanted to go on the stand in my own behalf but the lawyers objected to my testifying."

Q. What would have been the nature of your testimony had you gone on the stand. A. I would have denied some of them lies that were told by people I had never seen before and by the others that I knew.

Crawford said he knew Mrs. DeNeal Hammond Nokes (who dresses and acts like a woman), and a man named Jackson, as well as one other whose name he did not call, "but I had never seen the rest of the witnesses."

Denies Having Car

Asked how he got in possession of Mrs. Ilsley's car, as charged by the state, he replied that "I did not have the car, that was all a fremenu." He refused to go into details regarding the car.

Crawford said he did not come to Richmond when he left Middleburg, Va., stating that had he come to Richmond rather than going to Boston he would never have been arrested in connection with the crime.

The prisoner told the reporters that he tried to get his lawyer to call the witnesses who testified at the hearing in Boston, stating that he did not see these persons, not having been present at the hearing, nor did he know what they said in their testimony at that hearing, but he believes that if they told what they knew in that hearing and if they had been called to Leesburg and had told there just what they knew, he would not have been convicted.

Crawford expressed his positive belief that if French, his fellow prisoner in Boston, who was present when the alleged confession was obtained, had been put on the stand in Lees-

burg, the "confession" would never have been admitted to the record, because of the manner in which it was obtained.

Cannot Aid State

He said he flatly refused to sign the confession because he knew what Mr. Galleher had told the man to put into it, all of the information "being made up by Mr. Galleher and with which I had nothing to do."

Referring again to "Charlie Johnson," Crawford said he not only did not know him but that he could not assist the commonwealth in looking for a man whom he did not know to exist.

It was gleaned from Crawford's statements regarding "Charlie Johnson" that the major stumbling block in the way of a compromise by which Crawford would plead guilty to the charge of murdering Mrs. Buckner and receive a life sentence as he did for the Ilsley slaying, is his refusal to promise to aid the commonwealth in its search for "the real slayer."

Just what disposition will be made of the Buckner indictment is a matter of wide speculation, but the popular impression is that it will be difficult not only to get Crawford to promise to aid in the search for "Charlie Johnson" but to plead guilty to the Buckner murder charge.

Assaults Accuser

Crawford is not a dumbbell by any means. He speaks intelligently, has a keen sense of humor and is keenly logical in his conclusions. He is a man of wide experience and is apparently a fairly good judge of human and bow-legged, has a head like a man nature. He is short, stumpy, college professor and the appearance of a book-worm.

He bitterly assailed Robert Hutchings, who claimed at the Leesburg trial to have been an army captain in the World War and who testified against Crawford, who declared Saturday that "I had never before seen him in my life."

Not only did Crawford assail Hutchings, but he accused the state of packing its witness list with people "who knew nothing about the case and certainly nothing about me."

"The whole trial was a frameup," he asserted.

Crawford has confidence in his legal staff, who won such widespread praise for their brilliant conduct in the Leesburg trial, from the court and the press, as well as the public generally.

In Penitentiary

"I am going to wait and see what they are going to do about my case," he added.

He still believes that he can get out of his predicament ultimately and talks as if there is something he can do if all other courses fail to save him.

He was transferred to the state penitentiary on Tuesday. The prison warden heard from Attorney Houston to the effect that he was not contemplating an appeal to a higher court, and from Atty. Galleher that the charge against Crawford growing out of Mrs. Buckner's death would

not be pressed, at least at present, according to the most reliable information.

Atty. Galleher wired the Guide last week, however, that Crawford had been arraigned on this second murder charge.

Despite the fact that he is fairly intelligent, Crawford does not seem to realize the serious predicament in which he is.

He made mention of Paul Boeing, brother of Mrs. Ilsley, once during his conversation, and that was when he was telling of people with whom he had had some little trouble.

He said he had a little run-in with Mr. Boeing about a car, but that this was their only difference during his whole stay in Middleburg. Asked what kind of a man Mr. Boeing was, Crawford said he was a man of very few words. "He seldom has anything to say to anybody."

A doctor told him not to pay any attention to Mr. Boeing, because he "could not help being irritable," and in this way their run-in passed off. Crawford refused to discuss other angles of the case with reference to Mr. Boeing, diverting the conversation to something else.

Crawford said he was getting tired of staying in jail, but he is as reluctant about talking about certain details of the celebrated case as ever.

Second Life Sentence Given Virginia Negro

LEESBURG, Va., Feb. 12.—(P)—George Crawford, negro already convicted and serving a life sentence for the murder of Mrs. Agnes Boeing Ilsley, today pleaded guilty to the murder of her maid, Mrs. Nina Buckner, and again was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Eight Negroes Die Violently During January

Violent deaths in the city for the month of January were evenly divided between the races, there being a total of 16 for the 31-day period, according to the regular monthly report of Detective Leon Nowitzky, coroner's investigator. The figure represented one more than half the number recorded during December 1932, the report reveals.

Of the total number of violent deaths for January, ten were males and six were female. Six of the cases had their origin outside the city, the victims dying in Norfolk hospitals.

Homicide led the list of causes, there being five deaths of that nature. Automobiles came second, having claimed four lives. Three

persons died as the result of burns, while only one case was listed as a suicide. In each of the two preceding months the total of violent deaths was 30.

Gets Second Sentence To Life In Prison

Interview In Guide Holds Spotlight At 2nd Trial

CHANGES HIS STORY

Houston Insists That Crawford Enter His Own Plea

LEESBURG, Va.—George Crawford pleaded guilty, of his own free will, of murdering Mrs. Nina Buckner, maid of Mrs. Agnes Boeing Ilsley, and was sentenced Monday to serve the rest of his life in prison.

He already is under a life sentence for the Ilsley slaying, to which he pleaded not guilty last December.

Only because he may help identify and convict Charlie Johnson, missing suspect in the double murder, the court told Crawford, was the death penalty.

Judge Alexander Presides

The life sentence was suggested by Commonwealth's Attorney John Galleher. Judge J. R. H. Alexander, who disqualified himself from presiding at the Ilsley murder trial, sentenced Crawford.

"The court wants it distinctly understood," Judge Alexander said, "that in according to that suggestion (of prosecutor concerning sentence) it does not think that punishment is adequate in this case—on the other hand, I am going to adopt that suggestion because of the fact that if you are put to death—Johnson can never be convicted. You understand that, do

Houston Position

Crawford answered: "Yes, Sir." Before Crawford was allowed to plead by his counsel, Dr. Charles H. Houston, of Washington, D. C., brilliant barrister and dean of Howard University law school, Dr. Houston called the attention of the court to the article in last week's Journal and Guide, in which Crawford was quoted at length about many phases of the case, and in which he denied all guilt or knowledge of Johnson, the other suspect.

"Under the circumstances I would not take the responsibility of pleading Crawford," Mr. Houston says in a special statement to the Guide. "I would not be a party to the proceedings if Crawford was going to repudiate his offer to me to help locate and identify Charlie Johnson."

The full text of Mr. Houston's statement, a stenographic transcript of the court proceedings, and the statement of the Guide correspondent who got the interview with Crawford, in Henrico County jail on February 3, follow.

Mr. Houston's statement is styled a "contradiction" and follows in full:

1. I have just read your feature article in the issue of February 10 entitled "George Crawford Talks." Some of the statements therein, assuming Crawford made them, need to be denied; others explained.

2. In Leesburg today Crawford voluntarily pleaded guilty to the Buckner indictment, and received a life sentence, thereby closing the case. Before we went in Court I confronted him with your paper and showed him the article, and he denied the statements. I told him that under the circumstances I would not take the responsibility of pleading him guilty, and that he would have to make his own plea.

3. Before I let him plead, I called the attention of the Court to your article and explained that under the circumstances I would not take the responsibility of pleading Crawford; also that I would not be a party to the proceedings if Crawford was going to repudiate his offer to me to help locate and identify Charlie Johnson.

Court Takes Full Charge

4. When Court convened and Crawford was brought in, the Court took full charge of the proceedings. About fifty colored people were in the Court and approximately thirty whites. In open Court Crawford again denied the interview; and being fully advised by the Court as to his rights, stated he wanted to plead and did not want to go to trial. I inclose a stenographic transcript of the proceedings.

5. As to the bill, we fully investigated this phase of the case.

McLean Ransom and Tyson spent three days in Boston. It would have been impossible even to have attempted an alibi without suborning perjury. His attorneys in Boston acted in good faith when they set forth the alibi claim; but they did not have the information we possessed. We further made our own independent investigation of Crawford's presence in Virginia, and found it was impossible to escape the same. Too many disinterested people, white and colored had seen him.

6. As to the confession, I never heard of Herbert French until I read your paper of February 10. Crawford at first told us his cellmate was Herbert Finch. Messrs. Ransom and Tyson made a thorough search for Finch when in Boston, but could not locate him. There was no record of his ever having been in the Charles Street Jail where Crawford was confined awaiting extradition. Subsequently a different version about the confession was given us, which we are not at liberty to disclose.

7. As to keeping Crawford off the stand, when it came time for us to put on any defense I asked Crawford whether he wanted to take the stand and explained to him his right to stay off. He decided not to take the stand, and gave me a signed statement that he voluntarily declined. As a matter of fact it was his salvation that he did not take the stand. I am not hinting that he had anything to conceal; but I am stating that by the time the Commonwealth would have finished cross-examining him the case would have been so muddled and confused that the clear picture of Crawford being a victim of circumstances could not have been put in the jury's mind.

Rechecked Evidence

8. We checked and rechecked all the evidence in the case long before the trial, and kept our mouths shut. We knew just about what the Commonwealth could do; but they did not know what line we were going to take. We kept them thinking we were going to put in an alibi right down to the point where they closed their case. We did this for a point, that they might not know how weak we were. The only two witnesses whose testimony we did not have mapped out beforehand were Robert Hutchins and the white boy, Oscar Kitts. We made Hutchins out to be a complete liar, and I think we pretty well discredited Kitts.

9. Crawford was not framed. Whether he realizes it or not, he is a very lucky man.

10. The reason I did not arrange to meet you in Richmond Monday, I did not go to Petersburg February 4 as planned.

Wants Facts Accurate

11. Whether you approve our strategy in the case, or agree that everything considered it was wise to drop the appeal, is one thing. We leave that entirely to you. But for the good of all concerned, we have to keep the facts straight. Therefore I have felt it necessary to answer your article, although it is distasteful to have to discuss the facts of cases in which we have personally participated. Finally, without hav-

ing had the opportunity to consult my associate because I am rushing this letter off, I feel that if we had the whole thing to go over again, we would not vary one iota from the procedure we adopted. So we accept the full responsibility for our conduct of the case, provided you keep the facts straight.

Court Record

The stenographic record of Monday's court proceedings follows:

Hearing on the indictment charging George Crawford with the murder of Mrs. Nina Buckner, in the Court Room, Petersburg, Va., on the 12th day of February, 1934, before Hon. J. R. H. Alexander.

Counsel:

John Galleher, Attorney for the Commonwealth.

Charles H. Houston, Counsel for George Crawford.

Mr. Houston: our Honor, I believe Crawford is waiting outside.

The Court: Bring him in.—Crawford, you stand here.

The Court (continuing)—Crawford, you are brought up here on this indictment charging you with the murder of Mrs. Nina Buckner, which you were formerly arraigned upon and plead not guilty. I am informed that you want to withdraw that plea and enter a plea of guilty. Is that correct?

Guide Story Introduced

The Court: Now, in connection with that there has been brought to my attention a newspaper interview published in the Norfolk Journal and Guide, on the 10th of February, in Norfolk, Virginia. Now this Court doesn't want it to be said that any man that is brought here hasn't had, in every respect, a fair trial. This interview quotes you as saying that you did not have a fair trial on the Ilsley Indictment, and that you could not produce testimony, which would have cleared you of that charge, because you were not allowed to do so by your Counsel.

Crawford: You mean, the other charge?

The Court: Yes, the Ilsley Indictment.

Crawford: Those fellows came there to see me, but I did not talk with them about my case. The just came there and discussed it and started asking me how I come out in the trial. I asked who they were, and some of the fellows said that they were newspaper men. I didn't know them. They asked me if I thought I had a fair trial, and I said that I left everything up to my lawyer. I asked them why they had come there and they still stayed a pretty good distance away, and when they had gone I asked who they were, and some of the other fellows told me they were newspaper men. I didn't know them.

Pleads Guilty

The Court: What the Court wants to know is: Whether or not you want to plead guilty or be put on trial.

Crawford: Yes sir. I plead guilty. I don't care to be put on trial.

The Court: You understand that there has been no pressure brought to bear upon you, and that you are entitled to be tried if you want to be tried, and that I am here to see

that you get your rights.

Crawford: No Sir, I don't care to be tried.

Mr. Houston: Your Honor, may I say here that the motive in having him plead guilty is that he assist in the apprehension of Charlie Johnson who actually committed the murder. In this article in the newspaper it is stated that he denies having known Charlie Johnson, your honor, I would like for you to ask him if that fact is true, so that we may, in open Court, place that fact. There may or may not be a man by the name of Charlie Johnson—but there was another man and he can identify this man and give any other assistance possible.

Quizzes Crawford

The Court: This newspaper quotes you as saying that you do not know any man by the name of Charlie Johnson.

(Here the Court read portion of article referred to from the Norfolk Journal and Guide.)

The Court: Did you make any such statement?

Crawford: No, Sir.

The Court: Do you know this man?

Crawford: Yes, Sir. I know him, or if I saw his picture, I would know him.

The Court: Mr. Galleher, what is the Commonwealth's recommendation?

Mr. Galleher: The recommendation of the Commonwealth, is that he be imprisoned for the balance of his natural life, on this indictment, charging him with the murder of Mrs. Nina Buckner.

The Court: Crawford, The Court wants it distinctly understood that in according to that suggestion it does not think that punishment is adequate in this case—on the other hand, I am going to adopt that suggestion because of the fact that if you are put to death—Johnson can never be convicted. You understand that do you?

Crawford: Yes, Sir.

Pledges Assistance

The Court: And, further upon the promise that you are willing to assist the Commonwealth in every way that you can in the apprehension of this man, Charlie Johnson.

Crawford: Yes, Sir.

The Court: Have you anything to say before I sentence you?

Crawford: No, Sir.

The Court: The judgment of the Court, on the plea of guilty on this indictment charging you with the murder of Mrs. Nina Buckner, is that you are to be taken from this Court Room to the State Penitentiary in Richmond, and there to be confined for the balance of your natural life.

Mr. Houston: I wish, your Honor, please would make it clear that it is upon his own responsibility and free will that he has entered this plea of guilty.

The Court: I think the record will clearly show all of that, but in order that there will be no misunderstanding—I am asking you now—Is this done of your own free will and accord?

Crawford: Yes, Sir.

George Crawford "Takes The Rap"

GEORGE CRAWFORD has met his fate.

Pleading guilty to the second of two indictments charging him with the murder, more than two years ago, of a wealthy white sportswoman and her white maid, at Middleburg, Va., CRAWFORD was sentenced to life imprisonment Tuesday by Judge ALEXANDER. Previously, he had been found guilty on the first indictment on a plea of not guilty, and his punishment fixed at life imprisonment by a jury of twelve white Loudoun County citizens.

Thus closed this unusual case which attracted nation-wide interest during the time the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People opposed his extradition from Massachusetts, and sought to have the indictments quashed on the ground that Negroes are systematically excluded from jury service in Loudoun County.

It appears manifest that neither the N. A. A. C. P. nor defense counsel, headed by Dean CHARLES H. HOUSTON of Howard Law School, nor, for that matter, the general public which responded to pleas to aid in the defense, believed CRAWFORD was guilty. *2-17-34*

Unfortunately CRAWFORD became the center of a momentous controversy over the Negro's constitutional rights, much to the embarrassment of all concerned. *Norfolk, Va.*

But that was because CRAWFORD is a gratuitous and unmitigating liar. Many an unrestful conscience will be put at ease now that the scoundrel has "taken the rap."

Last week, two JOURNAL AND GUIDE reporters interviewed CRAWFORD in the Henrico County jail where he denied his guilt; denied that he knew of a "Charlie Johnson" who is supposed to be the actual killer; denied that he had a fair trial on the first indictment; denied that he entered a plea of guilty voluntarily, and denied various and sundry facts which had been testified against him.

Tuesday at Leesburg, where he was carried for trial on the second indictment, Mr. HOUSTON in view of the published interview, refused to take the responsibility for pleading CRAWFORD guilty, and left it to the court to ascertain what disposition he would take. That was a manly course, and the only respectable one which Mr. HOUSTON could have taken.

Questioned by Judge ALEXANDER, CRAWFORD denied all of his denials made in the interview with JOURNAL AND GUIDE reporters, and voluntarily and of his own free will and accord stated that he wanted to plead guilty, and that he did not want to go to trial on the indictment.

May he spend his remaining days in repentance, trying as best he knows how to purge his soul of some of the lies he has told.

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Virginia.

Mr. Houston Explains

IF THE STATEMENT made by Charles Houston and Leon Ransom, published recently in The Nation in answer to charges made against their conduct of the George Crawford case, represents the official position of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, it is but conclusive evidence that that organization values the good will of the dominant whites above the fundamental rights of Negroes.

When lawlessness threatens the Negro, it is not for the N. A. A. C. P. to challenge boldly the mob spirit. Rather, this organization now prefers to step gingerly and to act "in such a way as to provoke the minimum of resistance." "Social expediency" is to be balanced against not merely justice for the individual, but also against the constitutional rights of the race. And it was, Messrs. Houston and Ransom concede, in the interest of "social expediency" that Crawford was sacrificed and the rights of the race bartered. Nothing must be done that will arouse the fury of the dominant whites.

It is of little moment that counsel for the defense doubted the defendant's innocence. Even though unconvinced of his guilt until near the opening of the trial, they were ethically bound either to have withdrawn entirely from the case after postponement of the trial had been granted, or to have fought it through to the bitter end. They did neither. Instead, they agreeably compromised with the state of Virginia. And, with elegant sangfroid, have since been accepting the acclaim which certain N. A. A. C. P. officials bestow upon those who save a fellow man from the electric chair in order that he may rot in a dark and filthy prison cell.

Dean Houston Answers His Critics in Famous Crawford Murder Case

Says Crawford Did Not Get Into the Mess to Raise Constitutional Issues

MAN UNWILLING TO GAMBLE WITH LIFE

Says Client Did Not Want to Appeal. It Was His Case and Life

Dean Charles Houston, of the Howard Law School and chief counsel in the now famous Crawford case, in the following article answers Miss Helen Boardman and Miss Martha Guening, both white, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People investigators, who recently criticized Mr. Houston for the manner in which he conducted the case. The two white women wrote an article in The Nation last month stating that Houston "backed down" in the case. On the same magazine for this month Attorney Houston defends his action. The article is by Attorney Houston and Attorney Leon A. Ransom and follows:

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People always insists to the person who possesses direct information about Crawford's presence in Virginia. She did not talk with any of the two tests before it will handle them: (1) Virginia. Is an injustice about to be perpetrated upon Virginia Negroes, or will the Washington note, written under the circumstances (2) Does the case involve principles on County authorities to investigate the case, which counsel knew it had been written under? Counsel saved the force of their policies affecting Negroes generally? It entered the George Crawford case on this basis. Crawford as taking nine-year sentence for receiving stolen goods in order to the court the case either in the trial court or on appeal: the unconstitutional exclusion of Negroes from the grand and petit juries; the testimony of the pathologist who claimed he had found Negro skin under Mrs. Hsley's nails; the confessions which was the missing link connecting Crawford with the crime itself.

Prior to Crawford's arrest in Boston on January 12, 1933, certain rumors had gained currency in Virginia that Crawford was not the real murderer of Mrs. Agnes Hsley and Mrs. Mina Buckner in stolen goods. He had escaped in May, Middleburg on January 13, 1932, but that he was to be sacrificed to cover up the caught and sentenced in Richmond to five years for larceny of diamond rings from the guilt of a white man. When the press reported that Crawford had been arrested in Boston and was held for return to Virginia, for the previous escape, and two more the national office of the N. A. A. C. P. requested Butler R. Wilson of the Boston bar, president of the Boston branch of the association, to investigate.

The report from Boston on January 20 was that Crawford denied all guilt, that he had a complete alibi; that he had come to Boston from Virginia about September 5, 1931, straight through January 13, 1932, and had not been out of the city until long after January 13, 1932. But it began to develop from friends of the murders; that the Virginia authorities were on their way to take Crawford back and that Mr. Wilson was going to re-appear. Rendition hearings were begun before S. D. Bacigalupo, Assistant Attorney General of Massachusetts, on January 25, Crawford being represented by Mr. Wilson and J. Weston Allen, former Attorney General of Massachusetts.

The national office sent Helen Boardman, who had made several noteworthy investigations for the association, to Virginia. Her primary assignment was to get the temper of Loudeon County, in which Middleburg was located, and determine the risk of a lynching if Crawford was returned. Boardman incidentally picked up certain information casting doubt on Crawford's guilt, and about February 3 reported this change in the terms of the alibi would have been ground for suspicion. Crawford brought the Boston alibi back to Virginia which was supported by witnesses, Miss Boardman's report, and the further story that Crawford had already had, On the other hand, counsel had to been a martyr to Virginia injustice—have investigated the evidence of the prosecution ing been sentenced in Richmond about in order to develop their theory of the de-1925, so the story went, to nine years in the penitentiary for receiving some car-

tions of stolen cigarettes—the national office in good faith released its publicity pro-claiming Crawford's innocence of the Middleburg murders and calling on its friends to support its fight to prevent Crawford's return to Virginia. The decision of the Governor of Massachusetts to return Crawford to Virginia, the writ of habeas corpus issued by Judge Lowell, and the subsequent proceedings in the federal courts are well known and need not be repeated. Until October, 1933, when the United States Supreme Court refused to hear the case, all the energies of the association and counsel were directed toward keeping Crawford in Massachusetts, objective facts which tend to show that it was October before further investigations could be started in Virginia, and before counsel had free access to Crawford to check with him the various facts covered. By that time the case had achieved an international notoriety and the association had become committed to it beyond any possibility of withdrawal.

When counsel began to investigate the case in Virginia and check their investigations against Crawford's story and the Boston reports, an entirely different picture began to appear. No criticism whatever is made or intended of the conduct of the case in Boston. Messrs. Wilson and Allen made a devoted, able fight for Crawford with the information and material which were available. They simply did not have the information which the authors of this article later obtained in Virginia. Likewise no criticism is made or intended of the report turned in by Miss Boardman, but it happens that

1. On Christmas eve, 1931, the Hsley cottage in Middleburg was entered and a gold watch stolen. In January, 1932, shortly before the murders, Crawford turned up in Lynchburg at Coleman's home and pawned his watch to Coleman for the price of a bus ticket to Richmond. Coleman produced the watch at the trial, but upon the defense objection that the watch referred to a separate, unrelated crime the court ruled the watch out of evidence and did not permit the prosecution to identify it.

2. About 4 a.m. on the night of the murders two Negroes abandoned a Ford car on the Virginia side of the Potomac River just outside of Washington, D.C. This was Mrs. Hsley's car. It was taken to the Washington police headquarters, and when it was searched, a note indisputably written by George Crawford was found on the floor. Further evidence tended to establish that Crawford had written the note two days before the murders. Criticism has

been made that the Washington police did not find the note on the first search of the car, and that counsel did not bring this out on cross-examination. But what difference did that make if it was actually Crawford's note, written under the circumstances which counsel knew it had been written under? Counsel saved the force of their cross-examination for the crucial things which could really affect the decision of the case either in the trial court or on appeal: the unconstitutional exclusion of Negroes from the grand and petit juries; the testimony of the pathologist who claimed he had found Negro skin under Mrs. Hsley's nails; the confessions which was the missing link connecting Crawford with the crime itself.

3. Crawford's clothes were discovered in Washington, D.C., where he had abandoned them when he fled from Washington after the murders. Counsel went to the place where Crawford said he had stayed, obtained the clothes, and still have them in their possession.

The prosecution produced nineteen witnesses who testified to seeing Crawford in Virginia from December 24, 1931, and January 12, 1932. The majority of these witnesses had intimate contact with him, such as in the same automobile or sleeping in the same house. Counsel had interviewed six of the most important of these witnesses in advance of the trial; and either from these six or from conversation with Crawford were able to anticipate what the others would testify to. There were only two witnesses in the entire case whose testimony was a surprise to counsel, and these two were successfully impeached.

Upon the facts as developed from their own investigations and conferences with Crawford, counsel decided not to offer the Boston alibi, but to rest their strategy on forcing the prosecution to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt and on taking advantage of every reversible error made by the court. In counsel's opinion the court made four errors, any one of which would have served to justify an appeal: (1) The court erred in ruling that qualified Negroes had not been unconstitutionally excluded from the grand jury; (2) from the petit jury; (3) in admitting Crawford's "confession"; and (4) in not striking out all the evidence of the prosecution on the ground of variance from the charges in the indictment. But the jury returned a verdict of guilty with imprisonment for life; the court entered sentence; and counsel failed to appeal. Why?

In the first place Crawford did not want to appeal. It was his case and his life. He did not get into the mess in order to raise the constitutional issues; and if he was unwilling to gamble with his life to challenge further the issues of jury discrimination in Virginia, quite frankly that was his business. When the question was asked whether he wanted to take the chance on the outcome of another trial if the first sentence was reversed on appeal, he stated that counsel could use their own judgement so long as he did not have to take a chance on the electric chair. As Crawford's counsel, the authors of this article took their orders from him.

It was counsel's best judgement that on a second trial Crawford would probably get a death sentence. The trial had been a great nervous strain on the county and State, and had been expensive to them in more ways than one. Most persons in the county felt that Crawford had been extremely lucky in escaping the chair on the first trial. For Crawford to have demanded a second trial in order to challenge the jury issue would have put him in the position of not letting well enough alone. It would have taken him off the defensive and placed him on the offensive against the county. This would have had its inevitable, silent, psychological effect. If Crawford had wished to appeal or if he had received the death sentence, counsel would have appealed and fought the case to the end, because then Crawford would

have everything to gain and nothing to lose; but with a life sentence it was different. Crawford's private personal interest dictated winding up the case as quickly as possible.

The question remains whether the N.A.A.C.P. was justified in being a party to the compromise. In weighing this question it should be remembered that the decision whether to appeal involved not only questions of law but also question and good-will of the dominant majority. The law itself the very existence of the N.A.A.C.P. is that the Negro can attain full citizenship and equal rights only with the cooperation and good-will of the dominant majority. The law itself is a powerful weapon, but it has certain definite limitations when it comes to changing the mores of a community. A decision that Negroes had been unconstitutionally excluded from the grand jury which had indicted Crawford would not have cured the situation for the future if the dominant group in Virginia had made up its mind that it would use every subterfuge and force to nullify the decision. As early as 1879 in "Ex parte Virginia," the United States Supreme Court had authoritatively proscribed the action of Virginia authorities in excluding Negroes from State juries; but Virginia had ignored the decision and the practice persisted. Consequently the problem before the N.A.A.C.P. was not simply to force the issue, but to force it in such a way as to provoke the minimum amount of resistance.

There were indications at the time of the Crawford sentence that the practice of excluding Negro from juries in Virginia was breaking down. Since Judge Lowell's decision they had begun to appear in divers counties throughout the State. In Fredericksburg in the preceding summer, Judge Coleman had fined a white farmer for contempt in refusing to serve on a grand jury with a Negro. In the Crawford case it is true that Crawford had been indicted, tried, and convicted by white juries from which counsel is convinced Negroes had been unconstitutionally excluded, but these juries had been fair and Crawford had received justice in fact, if not in law. Any-horo cases present quite different factors one who insinuates that Crawford was framed in Virginia does not know the facts.

Furthermore, Judge McLemore, who had tried the Crawford case, although he reguilty to a less serious charge by way of fused to set the white juries aside, had actually made a finding that the Negroes in Loudoun County qualified for jury service, and had expressed the hope that in the future the matter would be settled to the satisfaction of all concerned. It was a real question whether from the standpoint of the ultimate objective of getting Negroes on juries in all the counties of Virginia it was better to force the issue in the Crawford case or to leave the Crawford case where it was as a token to the tate that the N.A.A.C.P. raised the jury issue only in the interests of substantial injustice, and did not raise it as a shield to protect guilty Negroes from the penalties of the law.

Within sixty days after the Crawford case, in Judge McLemore's home county, 15 Negroes had been included on a panel of 175 jurors, the first Negroes to be included since 1902; and the practice has been spreading in other counties. Most significant, there has been no public resentment. The leaders of public opinion in the State say this is due in no small measure to the trial and outcome of the Crawford case.

Again, the N.A.A.C.P. had to consider the question of local community relationships. As an outside organization the N.A.A.C.P. had to calculate carefully how far it was justified in turning the county upside down and then walking out on the local Negroes, leaving them in their weakness to catch the full force of community resentment. Sometimes in major social movements it may be necessary to sacrifice the peace of a community in the greater interests of the whole, but the decision should be made after great deliberation. When the Crawford case opened, the community was tense and hostile. The Negro population was so apprehensive that adequate living accommodations for counsel

could not be obtained. Counsel had to commute back and forth from Washington to Leesbury every day of the trial. Yet when the case closed, the atmosphere had completely changed, and both white and colored now report race relations in the county better than ever before. These facts cannot be ignored, especially when it is known that over almost unanimous protest counsel had refused to ask a change of venue and had insisted that the trial be held in Loudoun County where the murders had been committed, under the principle that the real test whether Virginia could give Crawford a fair trial was its ability to give him such a trial in the county where the crime had been committed and where feeling was most inflamed.

It has been stated that Virginia rushed Crawford to a plea of guilty to the Buckner case after a feature article had appeared in the Norfolk Journal and Guide in which Crawford had denied his guilt and claimed a frame-up. The truth is that the arrangements for the plea had been made before the article appeared. When Crawford was confronted with the article, he denied having authorized it; but even then counsel would not take the responsibility of pleading him guilty. He was advised that he did not have to plead guilty and could have a trial if he wanted it; but of his own free will he declined a trial and entered his plea.

In appraising the conduct of the Crawford case it is necessary to consider both the immediate and the long-range objectives. It is impossible to reach a conclusion in vacuo. The thoughtful reader should project himself right into the community and courthouse in Leesburg, with the responsibility of making a decision which will mean peace or discord to the human beings who will have to live there after he has gone, and should try to anticipate the repercussion of his decision throughout the State five, ten, fifteen years hence.

In their disposition of the Crawford case counsel were not trying to establish any universals. They were dealing with a concrete case in a concrete way. The Scottsboro cases present quite different factors in a different setting; the same for the Elaine, Arkansas, riot cases (Moore v. Dempsey, 261 U. S. 86, 1923), although these counsel pleaded the six defendants guilty to a less serious charge by way of disposing of the cases after the United States Supreme Court had ruled that the Negroes in Loudoun County qualified for jury service, and had expressed the hope that in the future the matter would be settled to the satisfaction of all concerned. It knows that the N.A.A.C.P. is in the fight to stay until very Virginia Negro enjoys all the rights, powers, and privileges of every other citizen of the Commonwealth; but it also knows that the N.A.A.C.P. program is to foster rather than to destroy interracial cooperation, mutual confidence, and good-will.

AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Anyone who observed the conduct of the trials of the three Negro defendants, charged with the murder of a white milk man recently, must have been impressed with the dignity and fairness which characterized the hearings. No undue haste was evident at any stage of the proceedings, and the conduct of the presiding judge measured up to the finest traditions of the bench he adorns.

While not desiring to pay an undue compliment to Richmond, for gracious knows there is enough injustice practiced under the roof of the City Hall to

sting the conscience of the most callous, fairness dictates the concession that there are oasis even in this desert and that the Hustling Court presided over by Judge Ingram is one of these oasis.

Can one imagine a trial such as the ones held this week in the Hustling Court being duplicated in any other southern city when the circumstances and offense are were the same?

Judge Ingram and his kind enhance the reputation of any city. What a pity they compose an almost hopeless minority.

Two Women, Two Men "Bite The Dust" As Brawl-Spirit Spreads

Jehosaphat!

Staid Richmond, callous to weekly regularity in murders for a realization of the horror of the thing Tuesday morning when it was learned that four murders had darkened the horizon of the city within the week—two victims had "bitten the dust" within three hours and day after noon.

George Hicks Kills Frank Lawrence

A social club dance down on Fairfield Street last Friday night wound up with Frank Lawrence weltering in his own blood, a victim of the bullets from George Hick's spitting gat. Mrs. Caroline Manson first reported that Clarence Stevens had killed him and he was arrested by police. Later Hicks sent word to Detectives Frayser and Neal that he was the killer and he was placed under arrest. Two other Stevens boys were held as material witnesses, as accessories before and after the fact. They are Linwood Stevens, 22, 1371 Bowling Green Road, and Floyd Stevens (Chicken), 32, 1911 Buchanan St. Clarence was also held. He is 21 and resides at 616 Buchanan St. Other witnesses are: Buck and Caroline Manson, 801 Fairfield Street; James Fitzhugh, 630 N. 17th Street; Robert Peyton, 1005 Short Baker St.

Felton Davis Kills David Simmons With His Own Gun

Thirteenth Street Bottom was the scene of the next killing. This took place Monday afternoon about 2 o'clock, when David Simmons came to Felton Davis's house and demanded his pistol, which had been left in "hock" for a small gambling debt. Davis refused to return the gat until Simmons passed the "long green." Simmons is alleged to have indicated that he had brought along his knife, with which to collect the gun. Felton let him have the contents of the gun in his stomach, and he died before he could reach the hospital at the top of the hill. His remains were removed to Randolph Brothers for

Caroline Manson finally reached the conclusion that it was Hicks who fired the fatal shot. It is said that she was confused

undertaking services.

He was sent on to the October term of the Grand Jury when arraigned in police court Tuesday. Witnesses are William Young, 613 N. 13th Street, Roy Sims, 525 N. 13th St., and Officers Frayser and Neal, Smith and Griffin.

Buster Brown Shoots Luvenia Gray

Buster Brown "lit up" Pink Street when he and Luvenia Gray got in an argument. He says she got bad and in the excitement he shot her twice in the abdomen. More than a gallon of blood was given the Gray girl at Saint Philip Hospital in the attempt to save her life, but she had suffered too much from shock by loss of blood. The affair took place at 974 Pink Street. Brown gave himself up, but was missing for several hours after the shooting.

An interesting angle is said to be in this case. Buster Brown is alleged to have shot a man here some years ago, and hid out until he heard that the man he shot had in turn been killed by another man in Petersburg. He then came out of cover.

Something Must Be Done

This latest outbreak of casualties in the never-ending "Battle of Richmond" has aroused citizens here and spurred efforts for some action that would move to curb these intermittent killings among the colored population in Richmond. One white official pointed out Tuesday that at the present rate of killings the white community would soon miss their colored neighbors here.

Killings - 1934

Virginia

Enough of Crawford

No one has any further interest in George Crawford, and all sane people feel that his confinement in the State Penitentiary for the remainder of his life is a good riddance.

Dean Houston needs make no defense of the conduct of the case by himself and associates. It is conceded by all except erratics that the defense counsel met every test in initiative and resourcefulness, and Crawford is the worst ingrate imaginable if he does not appreciate the services of these brilliant lawyers who kept him out of the electric chair. Any talk of a frame-up in this particular case is absurd and should not be tolerated a moment by thinking persons.

The Planet maintained from the beginning that Jim Crow justice in Virginia rather than George Crawford was the issue.

The N.A.A.C.P. picked a bad case to join the issue and acted wisely by not allowing a legal technicality stand in the way of the punishment of a criminal who richly deserved it.

Enough has been said and printed about Crawford. Nothing he says or does makes news unless it is to assist in the apprehension and conviction of his accomplice in a brutal murder. Let him stay where he belongs—in obscurity.

The next step is to get behind the Scottsboro cases which are entirely meritorious, and give the Supreme Court of the United States the opportunity to pass on the Jim Crow jury system and the Jim Crow justice prevalent, particularly in the South.

Trying the Crawford Case in the Press

THE OUTCOME of the trial of GEORGE CRAWFORD at Leesburg (Va.), for a couple of murders, has been the subject of much discussion, since it was viewed as a test of Virginia's position on the question of Negro jurors. CRAWFORD was ably defended by a battery of colored lawyers, headed by CHARLES H. HOUSTON, dean of the Howard University law school. He was convicted of first degree murder on the first count and sentenced to life imprisonment. On the second count he pleaded guilty, after his leading counsel told him in court he did not have to do so, and was given the same sentence as in the first instance. Many thought that CRAWFORD's counsel should have insisted upon his being tried on the second indictment, and if convicted and given the death penalty, or life imprisonment, his counsel should have carried the case to the U. S. Supreme Court on the jury issue.

All of these questions are threshed out in two articles published in *The Nation*, June 27th and July 4th. On the first date HELEN BOARDMAN and MARTHA GRUENING, the latter a lawyer, undertake to make out a case against CRAWFORD's counsel and the N. A. A. C. P., since CRAWFORD had first de-

under the title, "Is the N. A. A. C. P. Retreating?" On the latter date Messrs. HOUSTON and RANSOM state their side of the question under the caption, "The Crawford Case; An Experiment in Social Statesmanship."

The debate is there, for those who wish to read. What occasions this comment is the brief mention, in both articles, of an interview the JOURNAL AND GUIDE had with CRAWFORD shortly before his second trial. Misses BOARDMAN and GRUENING, both of whom have been officially identified with the N. A. A. C. P., refer to the published JOURNAL AND GUIDE article as "a leading article purporting to be an interview with him (Crawford)." Messrs. HOUSTON and RANSOM say that "It has been stated that Virginia rushed CRAWFORD to a plea of guilty to the BUCKNER case after a feature article had appeared in the Norfolk JOURNAL AND GUIDE in which CRAWFORD had denied his guilt and claimed a frame-up. The truth is that the arrangements for the plea had been made before the article appeared."

When the published interview with CRAWFORD appeared there was a flare of resentment displayed by a certain high official of the N. A. A. C. P., who saw in it the red hand of the International Labor Defense. Although for 15 years of NAACPing he had lauded the fairness and accuracy of the JOURNAL AND GUIDE, he forgot it all instantly and claimed that the interview was faked.

THE JOURNAL AND GUIDE let that insinuation go by. But now that *The Nation* argument has taken place, and both parties to the argument, knowing the authenticity of the CRAWFORD interview, surrounded their references to it with the brevity and phraseology that make for all sorts of implications, we are going to take this opportunity to state in these columns, and in the columns of *The Nation*, if we are permitted, that we assigned our Richmond correspondent to interview CRAWFORD later told his lawyers so many lies following advice from a salaried employee of the N. A. A. C. or his witnesses in his defense.

P. that if we did interview CRAWFORD we would get a story which this N. A. A. C. P. source indicated would be something of a sensation.

The original tip, telegraphed us, was indefinite. So we did not fly off the handle or go on a wild goose chase, but inquired of the nature of the sensation which the interview would disclose. Following an exchange of telegrams and letters with this N. A. A. C. P. source, our man interviewed CRAWFORD, in the presence of two witnesses, one of whom was a Henrico county jail guard. Before seeing CRAWFORD we obtained the permission of Judge MCLEMORE, Commonwealth Attorney GALLEHER, and the sheriff of Henrico County.

When CRAWFORD at his second trial was confronted with his statement, obtained and recorded in shorthand, he denied it. But that was nothing to occasion any surprise since CRAWFORD had first de-

Crawford Case A Classic of N. A. A. C. P Treachery

"Defense Attorney Vies With State in 'Proving' Crawford's 'Guilt'"

By HARRY HAYWOOD

(Continued from Yesterday)

REPLYING to Helen Boardman's charges that he helped to send George Crawford to a life-term in the Virginia penitentiary, Charles Houston, attorney for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, sinks still deeper into the mire of treachery. The theme-song of Houston's article in the Nation is this: "Crawford was guilty." Vying with the prosecution in diligence to produce evidence damaging to Crawford, Houston puts forward one argument after another to show that Crawford is guilty. There was not time for the NAACP defense to hunt up certain alibi witnesses for their client, but there was ample time for them to "discover" an abandoned set of Crawford's clothes in Washington, and to dig up a record of petty thievery for Crawford. With such energy on the part of the defense to convict a client, is it any wonder that the prosecution needed to go to very little trouble in the case?



Harry Haywood

Crawford had a record of previous offenses, said Houston. What does this prove? That Crawford is "criminally inclined," as Houston insinuates? No! It proves that Crawford is one more in that enormous number of Negroes persecuted by the police, picked up for any offense and none, hounded and driven by the agents of the ruling class. This petty persecution serves the purpose of keeping the Negroes in a state of terror and fear; it serves also the purpose of creating a background for future frame-ups against almost any Negro the state wants to hound.

Did Houston expose the real meaning of this "previous record" of Crawford's? No! Instead he used the previous persecution of his client in the way the lynchers use it—to help convict an innocent man. Houston did not even pursue the ordinary legal tactics of an ordinary lawyer in an ordinary case. He sat at the table of the defense, but his heart and soul, his mind and his talents and his energies, were at the disposal of the prosecution, of the

lynchers' courts of law. To the suggestion that Negro witnesses against Crawford were under duress, Houston raises his hands in horror. Duress? Impossible! Who ever heard of a Negro being threatened, tortured, beaten, intimidated in the South? Who ever heard of anything but the most gentlemanly procedure between white police and detectives and Negro men and women? Preposterous!

So, when the case closed, an innocent Negro sat behind bars for life, all evidence having proved his innocence. Every opportunity to fight for the rights of the Negro people had been ignored, brushed aside. And in the face of this, Walter White, speaking in the name of the N. A. A. C. P., hailed the Crawford case as "one of the most distinguished victories for justice to the Negro yet won."

Is this the way the N. A. A. C. P. fights a new Dred Scott case? Is this the way the N. A. A. C. P. establishes a new "underground railroad" from slavery to freedom?

In the face of such treachery, many honest supporters of the N. A. A. C. P. have asked themselves the question posed by Helen Boardman in her article: "Is the N. A. A. C. P. retreating?" Miss Boardman also asks: "Has the South's best tool in establishing such a procedure (legal lynching) been the N. A. A. C. P.?"

To the second question, we may answer unhesitatingly, yes. But to the question, "Is the N. A. A. C. P. retreating?" we give a different reply. No, the N. A. A. C. P. is not retreating. The treachery of the N. A. A. C. P. leaders in the case of George Crawford is but the logical climax to its treachery in the Scottsboro case and many other legal cases and other events. The treachery in the Crawford case is only the logical outcome of its whole theory, its whole policy, its whole basis of existence.

The N. A. A. C. P. Repudiates Struggle
The N. A. A. C. P. is not retreating. It is going forward on the line of non-resistance to the white masters, to the white lynchers. It is going forward, inevitably, logically, inescapably, along the line of repudiating all struggle for the rights of the Negro people.

Says Houston: "Racial relations in Virginia were improved as a result of the trial." This sounds incredible. Yet Houston's statement is, in a certain sense, true. By helping to jail Crawford, by abandoning all struggle for the rights of Negroes, the relations between the white lynch-rulers and their Negro lieutenants—such as Charles Houston and other N. A. A. C. P. officials—were considerably improved. How could the lynchers of Virginia

fail to appreciate the contrast between the suave and polite behavior of Houston and the behavior of the attorneys for the Scottsboro boys?

The lawyers of the I. L. D. had no regard for the feelings of the lynch-courts. They were determined to free the boys; they were determined to expose the monstrous frame-up and the basest of it; they were determined to fight for every right that the state of Alabama had denied to the Negro people. The defense of the Scottsboro boys was neither suave, nor polite, nor considerate of the feelings of the lynchers. The defense of the Scottsboro boys was a battle-ram against the ancient walls of discrimination and oppression. The attorneys in the Scottsboro case, following the policies of the I. L. D., knew that they could gain nothing unless Scottsboro became a rallying cry for millions throughout the world struggling against oppression.

Reward for Treachery

The lynch-rulers of Virginia were delighted with the contrast presented by the attorneys for the Crawford defense. They took Houston and his aides to their bosom. If we leave out of account the starved share-croppers and tenants and plantation workers of the Virginia farms, the sweated workers in Virginia's mills and mines, the Negro unemployed, the victims of Virginia's jails—then we may truly say with Houston that "racial relations in Virginia were improved as a result of the trial."

Says Houston: "For Crawford to have demanded a second trial in order to challenge the jury issue would have put him in the position of not letting well enough alone." A life sentence—well enough! The conviction of an innocent man—well enough! An all-white jury to sit on the case—well enough!

"It would," Houston goes on to say, "have taken him off the defensive and placed him on the offensive against the county. The law itself, the very existence of the N. A. A. C. P., is that the Negro can gain full citizenship and equal rights only with the cooperation and good-will of the dominant majority. The problem before the N. A. A. C. P. was not simply to force the issue, but to force it in such a way as to provoke the minimum amount of resistance." (My emphasis—H. H.)

"Let the Lynchers Be"

And there's the kernel of the matter. There's the basis of the policy of the N. A. A. C. P. No offensive against the lynchers. No offensive against the system of Jim-Crowism. Cooperation with the dominant majority—that is, with

the white rulers. Do not struggle, do not raise your voices in protest. Join hands with the white rulers. Depend on the courts—even though these are the courts of the lynchers. Depend on the judges—even though they wear beneath their official robes the regalia of the Klan. Do nothing to disturb the relations between master and servant, oppressor and oppressed.

For the N. A. A. C. P. represents that small group of Negroes who live well by virtue of segregation. To the Negro real-estate dealer, Jim Crowism is salvation, a means of livelihood. To the Negro insurance broker, the policies of the white insuring ram against the ancient walls of discrimination and oppression to wealth. Within the Jim-Crow confines, within the walls that hem in the Negro millions and keep them in untold suffering, the Negro upper class grows rich and fat. To this group, Jim-Crowism is the breath of life. Then why attack it? Why abolish it? Why not do everything to continue it in power, regardless of the agonies of the Negro workers and farmers to whom Jim-Crowism is a crushing burden?

(To be Continued)

Co-operation of NAACP Lynchers Welcome Fine Leaders

Killings-1934

Virginia

The Crawford Case and the N. A. A. C. P.

NAACP Lawyers Aided Treacherous Policies of NAACP White Rulers Frame Crawford

By HARRY HAYWOOD

GEORGE CRAWFORD, a Negro, stepped out of the courtroom at Leesburg, Va., hands chained by steel cuffs, to enter the penitentiary for a life behind bars.

Out of that same courtroom, the representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People stepped, with the brand of treachery graven deeply upon them.

The hands of the legal representatives of the N. A. A. C. P. at that trial are stained with the blood of innocent Negroes. Their feet have helped the Virginia courts trample down every human right of the Negro people.

False Promises

To the Negro masses, the N. A. A. C. P. appealed for funds to "fight" the case of George Crawford. The Crawford case was to be "another Dred Scott trial," another test of the rights of the Negroes. The Crawford case was to establish a "new Underground Railroad" over which an oppressed people could escape from slavery into freedom.

But to the white ruling class lynchers and their courts the leadership of the N. A. A. C. P. contracted for service as assistants in the persecution of the Negro people. They volunteered as watchmen over the privileges of the white slave-drivers. They volunteered to act as overseers in the bloody rule of the American rich over the oppressed Negro masses.

Agents of the Lynchers

Many honest Negroes, many white workers and intellectuals devoted to the cause of Negro liberation, have believed that the Communist Party is guilty of exaggeration when it brands the leaders of the N. A. A. C. P. as "agents of the lynchers." The events of the Crawford case leave no doubt in the mind of any sincere fighter for Negro freedom, that the leaders of the N. A. A. C. P. are the best lieutenants the lynchers have at their command.

Reading the testimony in the case of Crawford, one is constantly puzzled by the question: Was Charles Houston, the lawyer supplied by the N. A. A. C. P., acting as defense counsel—or was he part

Investigators Expose of NAACP

of the prosecution? Was his evidence presented to free Crawford—or to convict him?

The Facts of the Case

Review for a moment the facts of the Crawford case. Two white women were found dead in a cottage in Middleburg, Va., by a white man. Under ordinary circumstances, the white man would have at least been held for questioning. As it was, the cry of "nigger" was raised at once. George Crawford was picked up in Boston, and on the flimsiest of evidence indicted for the Middleburg murders.

The fury of the Negro masses, including the rank and file of the N. A. A. C. P., made it imperative that the N. A. A. C. P. take action. The Crawford case had all the earmarks of another vicious frame-up by the white rulers. Since that historic day, now three years ago, when the organizations of the revolutionary workers raised their hands to stop the legal massacre of nine innocent boys at Scottsboro, Ala., the white ruling class has trembled before these organizations. The fear that these forces will step into the case of framed and persecuted Negro and white workers, haunts the courts of the land, particularly the courts of the South. For a revolutionary organization to enter into state cases, will surely mean that the veil will be torn from that hideous oppression of the Negroes and the white workers. The basic issues involved in the degraded position of the Negro people will be brought out into the open. No stone will be left unturned to expose the frame-up, to free the defendant, to make the issue one more hammer-blow at the whole structure of oppression, discrimination, Jim-Crowism.

The Lesser Evil

Rather than run such a risk, the Virginia courts agreed to let Negro lawyers plead for a Negro charged with the murder of a white woman. This was the first time such a procedure had been allowed in the state. But these Negro lawyers must be humble Negroes, "good" Negroes, Negroes with no thought of overturning the monstrous system of slavery in the South, Negroes pledged to uphold American capitalism and all its ways. On these terms, the Virginia courts were willing to let the representa-

tives of the N. A. A. C. P. obtained a confession from him, through the motions of defending George Crawford.

What happened was startling. Charles Houston did not even go through the motions of defending Crawford. Quietly, politely, unswervingly, Charles Houston helped the state of Virginia to erect the prison bars about an innocent Negro.

So brazen was this treachery, that even members of the N. A. A. C. P. staff, probably believing in all sincerity that the N. A. A. C. P. is an organization dedicated to the struggle for Negro rights, were shocked into exposing from the inside the tactics in the Crawford case. Helen Boardman, veteran N. A. A. C. P. investigator, in an article appearing in the Nation, accused the N. A. A. C. P. of downright treachery. A week later Houston answered the charges. The first article was an indignant exposure. The second was a shameless self-exposure.

Masses Demand Militant Defense

A few weeks of investigation, and it became clear to the N. A. A. C. P. heads that the Crawford case would not be as "pretty" as they had hoped. It would involve exposing the denial of the right of Negroes to serve on juries; exposing the practice of obtaining forced confessions; exposing the whole set-up by which the state of Virginia keeps Negroes in semi-slavery. The Negro masses, aroused to watchfulness on these issues by the Scottsboro case, were demanding militant defense. The rulers of Virginia wouldn't like it at all. The N. A. A. C. P. was ready to drop the case of George Crawford like a hot potato.

Why didn't they, then? Because, as Houston said, "the case had achieved an international notoriety, and the Association had become committed to it beyond any possibility of withdrawal." The N. A. A. C. P., in other words, simply couldn't help itself. It had to go on with the Crawford case. And so, in the most efficient manner of efficient attorneys, the N. A. A. C. P. counsel helped the prosecution, helped the state of Virginia, to find Crawford "guilty" and to sentence him to a life in prison.

The Defense Forces a "Confession"

First, Houston announced to the world that his client was guilty. He had, he said, ob-

state of Virginia. Can treachery go further than this?

Crawford having been duly sentenced by an all-white jury, Houston deliberately permitted the time for an appeal to elapse, and made no move.

All this time the masses of the Negro people were diligently kept out of the picture. No mass pressure, said the N. A. A. C. P. heads. No telegrams of protest, no demonstrations, to annoy the excellent gentlemen who sit in the seats of the lynch-courts of Virginia.

(To Be Continued)



HARRY HAYWOOD

Judge Lowell, yielding to the anger of the workers, had refused to allow Crawford to be sent back to Virginia to be murdered. The higher court set aside this opinion, and the U. S. Supreme Court refused to review the matter. Not once did the N. A. A. C. P. open its lips to expose this action of the U. S. Supreme Court.

All-White Jury—But No Appeal

The "defense" failed to investigate witnesses who had seen Crawford in Boston at the time of the crime. The defense failed to cross-question important witnesses for the state. The defense called no witnesses to testify on Crawford's behalf. The case of George Crawford was tried before an all-white jury, but there was no appeal to the higher courts on this issue. Not only did Houston ask for a life-sentence for his client; he actually asked the court to state to Crawford that one of the conditions of sentencing him to a mere life-term in jail—instead of putting the noose about his neck—was that he aid the state of Virginia in running down and framing another Negro for the same murder. "Spare the life of this man, put him behind bars, so that he may become the instrument for a new frame-up against my people," said Houston to the

17-Year-Old Youth In Ghastly Fight Murders Rival With Ice Pick

Much excitement was caused in the neighborhood of Lombardy and Clay Streets last Friday night, when Shirley Lewis, 17-year-old youth, stabbed Guy Briggs, 21 years of age, to death with an icepick. Lewis plunged the deadly weapon several times into the chest of his opponent, and heroic efforts to save Briggs' life availed nothing. He died in St. Philip Hospital early Saturday morning.

Lewis, who lives at 1514 Blair Street, was arraigned in Juvenile Court and his case will probably be sent to the October term of the Hustings Court, it is learned. Briggs, who was a friend of Lewis', lived at 1511 Claiborne Street. The boys are alleged to have fought over a girl friend.

The regularity with which murders happen among the colored population has attracted much attention and it is reported that plans are being made to make an extended study of the psychology of these killings. The facts that the killings are almost invariably the result of brawls makes it almost impossible for the courts to exact heavy penalties. It seems, when the evidence reaches the court, that neither man could have been the murderer or the murdered. However the killings go merrily on, and at seldom missing a week when its columns fail to carry news of a murder.

Willie Bowles Killed "Son" Harris; Reprisal For Police Settlement

By Royall L. Hurtt

Petersburg has had another few days before the homicide. Harris was arrested for assault.

Before the Planet dried whiching Bowles with a knife. It is said recorded in last week's issue of that Harris resented the calling The Planet, the crime was among of the police into the assault case the Negroes of Petersburg, and and sought revenge by killing other chapter to his disgraceful Bowles.

record was written in the life's Much comment has been aroused blood of "Son" Harris, who was by the article on crimes among shot to death by Willie Bowles, the Negroes in Petersburg, which is alleged that Harris broke appeared in the Planet last week, the home of Bowles the night few people realized the extent of

lawlessness in this city until this column exposed the condition.

GEORGE CRAWFORD AGAIN

There is no justification for continued agitation over the case of George Crawford. Richmond, Va. 8-11-34

In the presence of the writer while denying the actual killing for which he was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment, Crawford admits his complicity in the crime and expressed himself as being perfectly satisfied with the conduct of his defense and the result of the trial. This should be sufficient to quiet the fears of all persons who hint at a frame-up and should serve to stop the criticism directed at Charles H. Houston and his associates, who conducted the defense.

The PLANET did not agree with the presiding judge in over-ruling the preliminary motions made by the defense to quash the indictment because of the exclusion of Negroes from juries. It is confident that the judge erred in this respect, but as the trial progressed and Crawford's guilt was definitely proved, no fair minded person could wish the N. A. A. C. P. to incur the expense necessary to carry such a case up to the Supreme Court purely upon an issue which could be settled in more meritorious cases.

The fight for justice in the courts for Negroes will not be advanced by attempting to build organization propaganda around the guilty nor by assisting criminals to escape the punishment they deserve. Those who demand justice must do justice.

The Richmond Planet will continue to fight every species of discrimination on account of color in the administration of justice but will as sternly insist that no clogs be placed in the way of the law's machinery when the guilt of the accused is as apparent as it was in the case of George Crawford.